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65
AUG
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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE®
WHO CARES ABOUT MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE...
...ON SALE EVERY TWO WEEKS? I'VE GOT A NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL COMING OUT!
WE CARE! AND WE'VE GOT ALL THE DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE!

Stan Lee presents

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SALICRUP'S SECTION

The big news this month is Marvel's biweekly comic, dubbed MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (Hey, where do we get these ideas?), it's sure to be a blockbuster! The Summer of '88 sure is shaping up to be a Marvelite's dream come true. There'll be twice as many issues of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE UNCANNY X-MEN, and G.I. JOE, plus the all-new biweekly MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, and the Evolutionary War running through all our super-sized annuals. And speaking of annuals (I wish I could come up with a sneakier segue, but the extra work required to edit those extra issues of Spidey is sapping whatever meager writing skills I might possess.), don't think I forgot about the 1987 MARVEL AGE Summer Annual Report Card. Calculating **Glenn Herdling** has been tabulating the scores way into the wee hours (Well, as assistant editor on the Spidey-titles he certainly doesn't have any time during the days due to all those extra Spidey issues!) and has finally handed in the results. Listed here are the percentages of how you rated last year's summer spectaculars:

1987 MARVEL AGE® SUMMER ANNUALS REPORT CARD

	OUTSTANDING	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	AWFUL
X-MEN #11	57	28	25		
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21	57	30	13		
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #7	45	35	20		
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #3	23	55	9	4	9
AVENGERS #16	58	37	5		
WEST COAST AVENGERS #2	43	38	10	9	6
ALPHA FLIGHT #2	41	29	24		
IRON MAN #9	31	44	25		
FANTASTIC FOUR #20	44	28	17	11	
X-FACTOR #2	41	41	18		
NEW MUTANTS #3	58	26	5		11
STAR BRAND #1	20	33	20	7	20
D.P.7 #1	33	44	11	6	6
PSI FORCE #1	44	28	22	6	
THE MERC #1	8	38	38	16	

Not bad, overall, huh? THE MERC seems to be our underachiever, this time around, but if you think we're going to pick on a dead guy, forget it!

continued on inside back cover

MARVEL® AGENDA

Coming Attractions 1
Newswatch 8
Marvel Trivia Quiz 9
Bob Layton Interview 10
Stan's Soapbox 14
Hembeck 16
Mutant Report 18
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 19
WHAT THE--?! 24
KIRBY'S HEROES AND VILLAINS 26
The Marvel Age 1977 (Part II) 28
Letters 31

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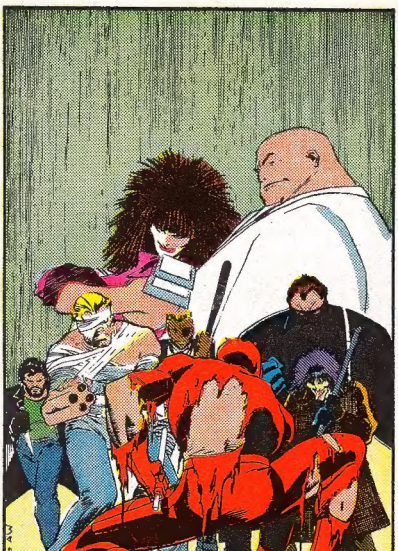
Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **September** cover date. The war for Cobra Island takes some strange turns! A new direction for the **Hulk**! **Bullwinkle** enters the Olympics! And that's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping May 3
On Sale May 24

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #233 — Now coming your way twice a month for the summer!

When the **X-Men** take on the alien **Brood Boys**, it's a fight to the finish ..... but it may not be the finish you expect! "Dawn of Blood" is written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **Mark Silvestri**. $1.00.



☐ **DAREDEVIL** #258 — **Daredevil** sets out to save children from exploitation by child pornographers! But he doesn't suspect that a much more personal threat is lurking nearby — **Typhoid Mary** has freed **half** a dozen of **Daredevil's** imprisoned foes, and each one intends to destroy the man without fear! "The Children are Watching" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #36 — **Doctor Pym's** first wife, **Maria**, has been transformed into a living computer. Now, **Doctor Pym** is determined to help her — even if it means leaving the **Avengers!** Guest-starring the **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch**. Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **WOLFPACK** Limited Series #2 — It's one thing for a pack of youthful ninjas to risk their lives on a daily basis. But it's another thing entirely for death to strike close to home! Who's dead? How will it affect **Wolfpack**? You'll find the stirring answers in "Wheels!" Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM MAGAZINE** #2 — Reprinting from THE 'NAM #s 2 and 3: **Ed Marks** and his buddies take a trip to the big city but find more than they bargained for when they wrangle themselves a "Three-Day Pass!" Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Armando Gil**. Also: A routine mission takes a deadly turn — all because the First Sergeant wanted to see himself on the "Six O'Clock News!" Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **Pepe Moreno**. A black and white Marvel magazine. 48 pages. $2.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE** #9 — There's mayhem aplenty when **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** are miraculously transported into the distant past! **Heathcliff** may be the toughest thing on four legs in the twentieth century, but how will he fare in an era when dinosaurs roam the Earth? "I Was a Dinosaur's Mother" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**,, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **LITTLE WIZARDS** #1 — Enter a world of magic and fantasy! Meet the valiant **Prince Dexter** as he battles the malevolent machinations of the evil **King Renwick**! Swords, sorcery, and a heaping helping of fun await. but remember — "It's Only Magic!" Written by **Laura Hitchcock**, penciled by **Ben Brown**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #42 — Attempting to free **Betty Brant Leeds** from a sinister cult, **Spider-Man** meets the cult's leader, **the Teacher**. Are **the Teacher's** abilities for real, or is he just the greatest con man the world has ever seen? If **Spidey** doesn't figure out the answer soon, he may get sucked into the cult himself! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D.** Limited Series #3 — To aid in his battle against S.H.I.E.L.D., **Fury** recruits some unlikely allies — **Tony Stark**, an accountant, and one of the greatest villainesses in the world! And you won't believe your eyes when you learn the truth about some of **Fury's** other friends and foes: one's an old man, one has cheated death, and one is really a robotic Life Model Decoy! Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Paul Neary**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder** with a cover painted by **Mark Bright**. 48 pages. Graphic Album. $3.50.

new universe™

☐ **PSI-FORCE** #23 — **Wayne**, **Lindsey**, and **Tyrone** risk everything to free their teammate, **Thomas Boyd**, from a paramilitary base! but the question is, does Thomas *want* to be freed? Part 1 of a special crossover with D.P. 7 #23. Written by **Fabian Nicieza** and illustrated by **Graham Nolan**. 32 pages. Mando paper. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE BLACK PANTHER** Limited Series #3 — The nation of Azania has a nuclear missile pointed at Wakanda! The **Black Panther's** willing to sacrifice his own life for his people's . . . but will that be enough? "The Moorbeck X Communique" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**, and inked by **Sam de la Rosa**. 32 pages on Mando paper. $1.25.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a high-quality, stiff-cover comic book edition.

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Titles Shipping May 10
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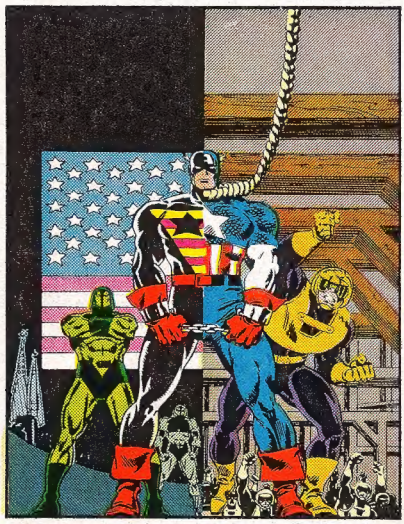

☐ **G.I. JOE** #75 — Because you demanded it: G.I. JOE goes biweekly for the summer! **Serpentor** is battling **Cobra Commander** for contol of Cobra Island, but when the diabolical **Destro** arrives, it's anyone's guess whose side he's on! "Holding Actions" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Fred Fredricks**. $1.00.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #21 — When a soldier-turned-slave falls in love with the Morituri's **Toxin**, he may have no choice but to undergo the deadly Morituri process himself! "The Earth Is Red" is written by **James D. Hudnall** and illustrated by **Thomas Hew**. 32 pages. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐ **WHAT THE--?!** Limited Series #2 — Brace yourselves for more far-out humor in the style of the 1960s humor mag NOT BRAND ECCH! **Nick Furry** battles evildoers in the wilds of the suburbs, courtesy of scripter **Fred Hembeck** and artist **John Severin**! It's all-out war in the battle of "Superbman vs. the Fantastical Four," written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Jerry Ordway**! And writer **Al Milgrom**, penciler **Mike Mignola**, and inker **Al Williamson** deliver another exciting episode in the life of "Wolfereen!" 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **CONAN THE KING** #48 — It had to happen! **Conan** steps down from the throne! Handing the reins of power over to his son, **Conn**, **Conan** travels to Aesgaard to see his daughter and son-in-law. But as you know by now, nothing is that easy in the life of the savage Cimmerian! "The Winter of Discontent" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Michael Docherty**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**. 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #1 — The biweekly series you've been waiting for arrives with a vengeance! Featuring Part 1 of three serials:

Wolverine written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Buscema** and **Klaus Janson**.

Man-Thing written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Tom Sutton**.

Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

And a gripping, complete in this issue, **Silver Surfer** saga written and drawn by **Al Milgrom**! 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE** #9 — Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #9: It's a tale of European intrigue when the **Joes** have to protect a diplomat overseas. But what the **Joes** don't suspect is that the "diplomat" is actually an undercover agent for **Cobra**! "Diplomat" is written by **Steven Grant**, penciled by **Mike Vosburg**, and inked by **Chic Stone**. 32 pages on Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL** #4 — **The New Mutants** enter the war against the **High Evolutionary** — and one of the **New Mutants** winds up with a whole new set of powers! "Mind Games" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. Plus: a special bonus feature giving all the details on those aforementioned mysterious new powers! 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **MARSHAL LAW** #4 — The beautiful heroine, **Celeste**, is going to marry the peerless **Public Spirit**. The horrific serial-killer, **Sleepman**, plans to slay **Celeste**. And **Marshal Law** is determined to kill **Public Spirit** — at the height of the wedding ceremony, if necessary — because he believes that **Public Spirit** is secretly the **Sleepman**! "Conduct Unbecoming" is written by **Pat Mills** and illustrated by **Kevin O'Neil**. An Epic comic. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers only. $1.95.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #345 — When the **Watchdogs** kidnap **Captain America's** parents, he sets out to rescue them — even if he has to kill the **Watchdogs** to do it! Meanwhile, the **Captain** surrenders to the commission that stripped him of his name and costume! "Surrender" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #10 — Two Avenging adventures for the price of one!

A peaceful electronics exhibition takes a deadly turn when it becomes the scene of a no-holds-barred fight between **Hawkeye** and a group of terrorists! If **Hawkeye** can't stop them, the result may just be "The Sinking of Los Angeles!" Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Jose Marzan**.

Also: **Dr. Druid** takes on an ancient evil — in the subway tunnels beneath Manhattan! "Token Sacrifice" is written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Lee Weeks**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #18 — Two, two, two titanic tales in one!

Cloak is trapped by the mysterious **Mr. Jip**! Without his aid, can **Dagger** survive an attack by the beautiful but deadly **Night** and her **Shadow Creatures**? "Descent into Darkness" is scripted by **Terry Austin** and penciled by **Dan Lawliss**.

Plus: He may be human again, but **Doctor Strange's** troubles still aren't over. Before his transformation, **Doc** stole **Victoria Bentley's** mystic powers. Now, he's got to face the consequences of his actions. And that's no small task, even for a Master of the Mystic Arts! "The Touch of Your Hand" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75¢.

☐ **POWER PACK** Trade Paperback — Relive the classic origin of **Power Pack** from POWER PACK #s 1–4! When an Earthman develops a powerful new weapon, aliens kidnap him to get it. But when his children acquire super powers of their own, it's the aliens who'd better look out! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**, with a new foreword by **Louise Simonson**. 128 pages. $7.95.

☐ **POWERLINE** #2 — The **Powerline** kids, **Vic** and **Lenore**, make their public debut! But as they head back to California, they don't suspect that the diabolical **Dirk Ravencore** has prepared a chilling welcome home surprise for them! Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Dave Ross**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **VIDEO JACK** #5 — **Daimon** is out to seize control of all the video dimensions! And the key to that control is the TV information stored in the mind of **Video Jack**! Will **Jack** be able to resist all the television tortures **Daimon** has planned for him, tortures that include the video vixen from "Dynasty"? Written by **Cary Bates** and **Keith Giffen**, penciled by **Alan Weiss**, **Keith Giffen**, and **Carmine Infantino**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. An Epic comic. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #11 — Re-presenting from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 83–85: There's a new criminal mastermind in town, and he's out to take over the **Kingpin's** syndicate! Can you guess the incredible secret of the **Schemer**? "The Schemer," "The Kingpin Strikes Back," and "The Secret of the Schemer" are written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**, **John Buscema**, and **Jim Mooney**. A 64-page Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #151 — In the wild grasslands east of Darfar, **Conan** joins a hunt for the exotic animals of the region. But when man-apes take his friends captive, the battling barbarian gathers some strange allies — creatures who are more beast than human! "Fury of the Nearmen" is written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A black and white Marvel magazine. 64 pages. For Mature Readers only. $2.00.

☐ **AKIRA** #1 — From Japan comes a science-fiction thriller! It's 1992, thirty-eight years after a devastatingly new bomb exploded over Tokyo and triggered WW III. Now, the young, rebellious **Kaneda** nearly runs over a child with his motorcycle — a child with the face of an old man and powers beyond physical science! Original script and illustrations by **Katsuhiro Otomo**, with English adaptation by **Jo Duffy**. An Epic Comic. Graphic Album. 64 pages. $3.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #304 — Now coming your way every two weeks!

Peter Parker's book of **Spider-Man** photos is hitting the stores, and **Peter's** off touring the country to promote it! But fun turns to danger when the web-slinger encounters that gentleman thief, the **Black Fox**, in sunny California! Written by **David Michelinie** and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane** and **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

GROO is TM and © 1988 by Sergio Aragones

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #43 — **Granny Groo** has sold her grandson into slavery! Who can take up **Groo's** swords and save him? Would you believe . . . **Groo's** dog, **Rufferto**?! Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragones** with aid and comfort from **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #26 — **Heathcliff's** won the lottery! But his new-found fortune turns sour when **Heathcliff** learns that the life of a rich fatcat isn't all fun and games! "Thanks a Lottery" is written by **Angelo Becesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

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☐ **D.P. 7** #23 — The conclusion of the searing tale begun in PSI-FORCE #23 — and it's a shocker! The battle between **Psi Force** and **D.P. 7** reaches a fever pitch at the Ft. Benning training base. But with everyone's attention focused on the all-out battle between these two paranormal forces, no one notices the horrifying change in **Jenny Swenson** caused by overexposure to Pitt juice! "Convergence" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 32 pages. Mando paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #67 — Mutant rock star **Lila Cheney** has a problem: How can she escape the clutches of the alien **Spyder** and **the Webb**? As if that weren't enough to grab your interest, you'll also meet the newest **New Mutant** of all! Her name's **Gosamyr**, and she has an incredible effect on boys! "Promise" is written by **Louise Simonson** and drawn by **Bret Blevins**. $1.00.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #62 — Their funding from the Canadian government has dissolved, so the **Alphans** break up and go their separate ways. But when **Cara Killgrave** arrives home, she's shocked to discover that her father's dead . . . and even more shocked that someone has reanimated his corpse! "Real Gone Daddy" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALF** #7 — **ALF** takes a page from the musical "My Fair Lady" when he grooms **Lynn** for her high school play. But to make it all work, **ALF's** going to have to put in an appearance at the play himself! "Pygm-alien" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

Titles Shipping May 17
On Sale June 7

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #66 — What is the Darkness War and SOMEPLACE STRANGE? You'll find the answer, along with the full lowdown on SPEEDBALL and the all-new CLOAK AND DAGGER and DOCTOR STRANGE series, in the pages of everybody's favorite official Marvel news magazine! And of course, you'll also find **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck**, the Mutant Report, and all the other regular features you know and love. Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **AIR RAIDERS** #6 — Ever since the mercenary windslinger **Hush** rode into town, the townspeople have been safe from **Sergeant Blot's** raids. But when **Hush** turns his guns on **Rokk** and the **Air Raiders**, it looks like he may pose a greater danger than **Blot** ever did! Written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Jim Sinclair**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #215 — Re-presenting from THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #162: **Spidey**, **Nightcrawler**, and the **Punisher** set out to catch the misshapen killer **Jigsaw**! That is, if **Jigsaw** doesn't catch them first! "Let the Punisher Fit the Crime" is written by **Len Wein**, penciled by **Ross Andru**, and inked by **Mike Esposito** and **Dave Hunt**, with a new cover by **Mike Zeck**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #347 — It's a new direction for the incredible **Hulk** . . . and wait till you see what it is! A new locale! A new supporting cast! And much, much more! Written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Jeff Purvis**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #295 — **The Council of Kangs** intends to gain possession of the most powerful weapon in the universe! But the nefarious **Nebula** has a scheme to steal the weapon herself — and she's going to use the **Avengers** to do it! Written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #210 — The ex-harem girl **Sevante** is determined to win **Conan** for her own . . . whether he wants her to or not! Still, the price of **Conan's** heart may be higher than **Sevante** expected as she faces chasms, deserts, and a life-threatening "Storm!" Written by **James C. Owsley** and **Val Semeiks**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #11 — A gang of criminals is smuggling illegal aliens into the country — but whether the aliens are alive or not when they get here is a different question! Can the **Punisher**, armed only with ancient weapons, put an end to the gang's vile schemes? "El Brujo" is written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **VISIONARIES** #6 — The **Visionaries'** quest for a set of mystic talismans continues as they go after a gem with a mysterious power! And before they're through with the quest, **Virulina** and **Galadria** will gain new magical powers! Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #234 — **Wolverine** may be restored to normal, but his troubles have just begun when he meets up with the diabolical **Glory Day** evangelists! Written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **Mark Silvestri**. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #2 — The biweekly action continues!

Wolverine Part II by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Buscema** and **Klaus Janson**.

Man-Thing Part II written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Tom Sutton**.

Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu Part II written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

Plus: complete in this issue, one of the wildest **Captain America** tales yet! Written and drawn by **Al Milgrom**. 32 pages. $1.25.

AND ROCKY #6 — The devious **Boris Badenov** has arranged for the Olympics to be held in Pottsylvania this year . . . and fixed it so that only the Pottsylvanian team will show up! Can **Bullwinkle** fill in for an entire Olympic team and save America's honor? "Grab for the Gold" is scripted by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #76 — **G.I. Joe** invades Cobra Island! The **Cobra** leaders are slaughtering each other in an explosive civil war! Is this truly the end of **Cobra**? "All's Fair" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Fred Fredricks**. $1.00.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #21 — When **Nanny** can't take the **Muppet Babies** to the circus, the **Muppet Babies** use their imaginations to turn their nursery into a circus of their own, complete with wild animals everywhere! But the animals turn out to be wilder — and funnier — than they ever expected! "The Big Top Caper" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Marie Severin**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE SILVER SURFER** #15 — **The Elders of the Universe** have tried repeatedly to kill the **Silver Surfer**. But now, the **Surfer**, along with the **Fantastic Four's Mr. Fantastic** and **Invisible Woman**, must plunge into the heart of a black hole to save the **Elders'** lives — and through them, save **Galactus**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

new universe™

☐ **JUSTICE** #23 — What happens when a man viewed as a god must destroy his followers? When that man is **Justice**, and the acolytes are the **Justice Brigade**, the answer is all-out war! "Ramification" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Lee Weeks**, and inked by **Mike Gustovich**. 32 pages. Mando paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

Titles Shipping May 24
On Sale June 14

☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK** #6 — Re-presenting the final adventure from the classic FRAGGLE ROCK Limited Series! **Gobo** leads a fearless expedition to "the hole to who knows where!" There's zaniness and suspense every step of the way when the **Fraggles** go "Exploring the Unknown!" Written by **Stan Kay** and drawn by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #44 — Meet Hollywood's newest and hottest star, the **Decepticon, Skullgrin!** But the insanely jealous **Circuit Breaker** plans to short circuit **Skullgrin's** career before it can electrify the screen. And what this means for you is a cover to cover blockbuster called "Monstercon from Mars!" Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

☐ **POWER PACK** #40 — A surprise villain from **Power Pack's** past returns to kidnap the mutant **Lighttrakker!** Can **Power Pack** rescue **Lighttrakker** before it's too late? Scripted by **Louise Simonson** and drawn by **Sal Valuto**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #318 — The **FF** head into the Negative Zone to learn the secret of the mysterious **Beyonders!** But the biggest question may be: will the **FF** make it back alive? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #395 — **Meet Tempest, Sky Hawk,** and **Earth Lord!** Together, they're the **Earth Force** . . . and their orders are to kill **Thor!** And don't miss a special guest appearance by everyone's favorite sightless super hero, **Daredevil!** "Enter the Earth Force" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #305 — The **Black Fox** has stolen a valuable chalice. And if the wall-crawling **Prowler** can't recover it, his wife will die! Scripted by **David Michelinie** and drawn by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

☐ **CARE BEARS** #18 — Everyone's sun and fun by the sea is wrecked when the sinister **Sand Witch** strikes! Why is she wrecking everyone's fun? The **Care Bears** face one of their greatest challenges to find the answer! "The Sand Witch" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howie Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #25 — Re-presenting from X-MEN #119: **Moses Magnum** threatens to destroy all of Japan! The **X-Men** just might be able to stop him . . . but first, they've got to get past the **Mandroids**, whose super-powered armor was designed to be a match for the **Avengers!** "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Also: A brand new story written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐ **IRON MAN** #234 — **Radioactive Man** captures **Spider-Man**! And only **Iron Man** possesses the power to rescue **Spidey** from **Radioactive Man's** deadly experiments! Co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Jackson Guice**, and co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE** #11 — Re-presenting from THE TRANSFORMERS #s 21–23: The **Decepticons** take over Hoover Dam to serve their energy needs! Juvenile delinquent **Decepticons** deface America's greatest monuments with graffiti! All this and **Danny Finkelberg**, the kid who ruled the **Transformers**, too! "Aerialbots Over America," "Heavy Traffic," and "Decepticon Graffiti" are written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. A 64-page Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL** #21 — **Crystal** has been kidnaped — by her own family, the **Inhumans**! And when the **FF** rockets to the Moon to free **Crystal**, they find themselves facing the **High Evolutionary**, who's out to steal the **Inhumans** mutagenic Terrigen Mist! Plus: **Crystal** is reunited with her ex-husband, **Quicksilver** . . . and she's not too happy about it! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #16 — **Conan** the warrior becomes **Conan** the schemer in a plot to extort a princess's ransom from a merciless king. The key to **Conan's** success is the compliance . . . and silence . . . of a beautiful slave girl. Will she lose her nerve? And what of the court intriguers who killed the princess **Conan** claims to now possess? Re-presented from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #12. "The Haunters of Castle Crimson" written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. A Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

Titles Shipping May 31
On Sale June 21

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #142 — The **Punisher** — about to assassinate a pair of crimelords in Dallas? That's what happens when the **Persuader** turns his persuasive power on the **Punisher**! Can **Spider-Man** free him from the **Persuader's** control before it's too late? Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #22 — As the Tet Offensive draws nearer, the men of the 23rd celebrate Thanksgiving in the field. But what they don't realize is that they're giving the enemy something to be thankful about, too! "Thanks for Thanksgiving" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

new universe™

☐ **THE STAR BRAND** #15 — **Ken Connell**, the first human to possess the Star Brand, confronts his son! And the reunion is *not* happy! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 32 pages. Mando paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #8 — Our history of everyone's favorite merry mutants continues! Complete with concise synopses of every issue and full-color reproductions of every cover! In this issue: THE UNCANNY X-MEN #s 139–160, including a major turning point in the life of **Magneto**! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. Direct sales only. Graphic Album. 48 pages. $2.95.

☐ **HERCULES** Graphic Novel — **Hercules'** son is out to kill him! **Herc** figures it's up to him to teach his son humility . . . Talk about the blind leading the blind! **Herc's** pals, the android **Recorder** and **Skyppi the Skull** are close at hand for this star-spanning saga! Written and drawn by **Bob Layton**. $6.95.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #32 — **X-Factor** battles the **Avengers** . . . or do they? Written by **Tom DeFalco** and illustrated by **Steve Lightle**. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #22 — Meet the hottest new hero in the Marvel Universe — **Speedball**, the Masked Marvel! He's got to help **Spider-Man** and **Daredevil** stop the **Kingpin's** implacable drive to increase the supply of illegal drugs in New York City! "Drug War Wages" is plotted by **Tom DeFalco**, scripted by **David Michelinie**, and penciled by **Mark Bagley**. Plus: a special fact-filled feature on **Speedball** plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**, scripted by **Roger Stern**, and inked by **Jackson Guice**. Cover penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **John Romita Sr.** 64 pages. $1.75.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #3 — The biweekly action continues!

Wolverine Part III written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Buscema** and **Klaus Janson**.

Man-Thing Part III written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Tom Sutton**.

Shang Chi, Master of Kung Fu written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

Plus: complete in this issue, a dynamite **Thing** story written and drawn by **Al Milgrom**! 32 pages. $1.25.

SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

A.I.M. — NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. #3
Ammo — DAREDEVIL #258
The Arranger — THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #142
Mr. Berengetti — THE INCREDIBLE HULK #347
The Black Fox — THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 304, 305
The Brood Boys — THE UNCANNY X-MEN #s 233, 234
Bullet — DAREDEVIL #258
Bushwacker — DAREDEVIL #258
Earth Force — THOR #395
Elders of the Universe — SILVER SURFER #15
Tony Gold — THE INCREDIBLE HULK #347
The High Evolutionary — THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #4, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #22, THE FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #21
Hydra — NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. #3
Kang — THE AVENGERS #295
Killgrave — ALPHA FLIGHT #62
The Kingpin — THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #22, DAREDEVIL #258
Madame Hydra — NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. #3
Mr. Jip — STRANGE TALES #18
Moorback — THE BLACK PANTHER #3
Nebula — THE AVENGERS #295
Night — STRANGE TALES #18
The Persuader — THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #142
The Radioactive Man — IRON MAN #234
Spyder & the Webb — THE NEW MUTANTS #67
The Supremists — THE BLACK PANTHER #3
The Teacher — WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #42
Tombstone — THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #142
Typhoid Mary — DAREDEVIL #258
Watchdogs — CAPTAIN AMERICA #345
Wild Boys — DAREDEVIL #258

NEWSWATCH

Titillating Tidbits to Terminate Tedium and Turn you Topsy-Turvy

ITEM: Remember last month, when we gave you the whole story on our recent editorial tradeoff and told you who was going to be editing what? Well, no sooner had we written last month's column than things changed some more! So get out your dancing shoes — it's time to do the editorial shuffle again!

First of all, let's bid farewell to CONAN / SILVER SURFER / MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS editor and resident **Grateful Dead** fanatic **Mike Higgins**. Mike's leaving his editorial position to take up a bunch of freelance projects, including lettering the new Epic Comics series from Japan, AKIRA. Several of the other editors are taking up the reins on the books that **Mike's** been editing. Here's a quick rundown:

OK, I'M BAD!
I'M A BEAR!
I'M BAD!
I'M NOT SOME WIMP YELLOWSTONE PARK, HONEY-LICKING, CUTE FUZZY BEAR!
I'M THE BEAR YOU WANT!!!
I DON'T PUT OUT FIRES AND I EAT CAMPERS!
I'VE WORKED WITH SERBAN AND BROOKS I'VE BEEN TO YALE!
SO HOW'D I DO?
WITH MAKE-UP I CAN BE MORE POLAR...
WE'LL LET YOU KNOW.
YALE?
I THINK I BLEW IT.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT UP POLAR...
FACE IT, DOD, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO WITH A GUY IN A BEAR SUIT.
I KNEW IT.
DEFINITELY.

New Rude Funnies © by Bob Hall

Don Daley
- CONAN THE BARBARIAN
- CONAN THE KING
- THE 'NAM
- THE 'NAM MAGAZINE
- SEMPER FI
- DINORIDERS
- TRANSFORMERS
- THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL
- TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE

Craig Anderson
- SILVER SURFER
- THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN
- CONAN SAGA
- POWER MAN
- MARVEL MASTERWORKS

Terry Kavanagh (with assistant **Mike Rockwitz**)
- MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
- EXCALIBUR
- HERO Limited Series
- WOLFPACK Limited Series
- SPEEDBALL

And say, if you're feeling really ambitious, you can always cut out this list and paste it down over the appropriate parts of last month's list. That way, we can pretend we were right all along!

ITEM: For some time now, **Sue Flaxman** has been keeping an eye on assorted Marvel business from her vantage point in front of Editor in Chief **Tom DeFalco**, Executive Editor **Mark Gruenwald**, and Star Comics Editor **Sid Jacobson's** offices. But now, Sue's moving to a new position . . . about five feet away from her old one! No, Sue's not the new editor in chief; she's Sid Jacobson's brand new assistant editor!

What happened to Sid's previous assistant, **Laura Hitchock**, you ask? Well, it seems that Laura figured her schedule was busy enough, what with writing series such as MUPPET BABIES, LITTLE WIZARDS, and the upcoming FELIX THE CAT movie adaptation. Guess she wanted to be able to sleep, too. (Boy, the nerve of some people . . .)

ITEM: You probably know **Bob Hall** as the masterful artist on the EMPEROR DOOM Graphic Novel, among other projects. But didja know that he's also one of the artistic directors of the classical theater company, The New Rude Mechanicals? They've only been around for about a year, but already the non-profit troupe has presented such classics as **Moliére's** *The Misanthrope* and **Shakespeare's** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. More Shakespeare is on the way — *The Winter's Tale* through March and *As You Like It* in May and June. So if you want more information, write to Bob at:

The New Rude Mechanicals
P.O. Box 2611
Times Square Station
New York, NY 10036

After all, you know what they say: All the world's a stage!

THE TOP TEN

Hey, this is an election year! But if you stop and think about it, each month is also election month! How's that, you ask? Because each month you "vote" for our Top Ten with the comics you buy! This month's list of the ten best-selling titles in the Direct Sales market is for the month of **January**, and it's compiled by our pundit of the polls, Vice-President/Direct Sales **Carol Kalish**. Now, with 100% of the precincts reporting, we have a winner! It's

1 — **X-MEN** #229
2 — **X-FACTOR** #28
3 — **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #300
4 — **THE PUNISHER** #8
5 — **THE NEW MUTANTS** #63
6 — **SILVER SURFER** #11
7 — **CLASSIC X-MEN** #21
8 — **THE AVENGERS** #291
9 — **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #138
10 — **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #38

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Let's review the colorful histories of **Wolverine**, **Shang-Chi**, the **Starjammers** and other heroes featured in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, with the following twenty conundrums. If you don't know these characters as well as you think you did, never fear — the answers are on page 32.

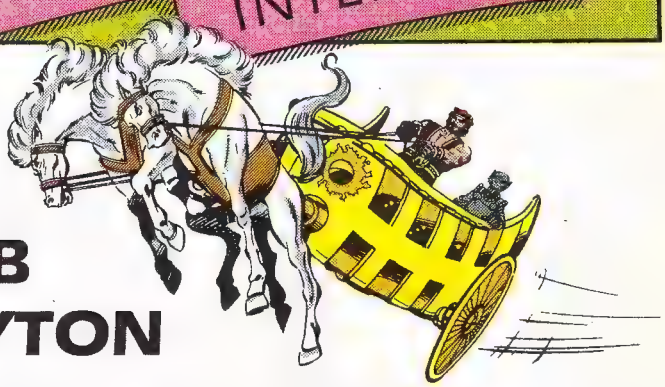
— Brian Nelson

1. Who delivered the fatal blow to Wolverine's pal **Charlemagne**?
   A) Wolverine
   B) **Viper**
   C) **Spider-Man**
   D) **Pippin**
2. What was the name of **Corsair's** late, lamented wife, mother to **Cyclops** and **Havok**?
   A) **Annie**
   B) **Kate**
   C) **Colleen**
   D) **Matilda**
3. At the end of his series, Shang-Chi abandoned the world, to live as a:
   A) fisherman
   B) carpenter
   C) farmer
   D) manicurist
4. **James** and **Heather Hudson** met **Logan** in:
   A) the desolate reaches of the Yukon
   B) the slums of Vancouver
   C) Wood Buffalo National Park
   D) Benihana's in Montreal
5. **Waldo**, the sentient computer of the Starjammers, was named in tribute to the stories of:
   A) **Isaac Asimov**
   B) **Arthur C. Clarke**
   C) **Robert Heinlein**
   D) **Jacqueline Susann**
6. Wolverine had met all of the following characters before he joined the **X-Men**, except:
   A) **Puck**
   B) **Carol Danvers**
   C) the **Hulk**
   D) **Mystique**
7. **Grigori Sovchenko** was the true identity of which MASTER OF KUNG FU nemesis?
   A) **Ghost-Maker**
   B) **Shockwave**
   C) **Razor-Fist**
   D) **Rufus T. Hackstabber**
8. **Lilandra** presently travels with the Starjammers hoping to one day regain her throne, which is currently held by:
   A) **D'Ken**
   B) **Deathbird**
   C) the **Brood**
   D) **Margaret Thatcher**

Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu

9. Who was the Japanese criminal leader that Wolverine defeated to win the hand of the criminal's daughter, **Mariko**?
   A) **Shingen Harada**
   B) **Keniuchio Harada**
   C) **Shiro Yoshida**
   D) **Joe Isuzu**
10. Shang-Chi was romantically involved with all of the following women except:
    A) **Juliette**
    B) **Pavane**
    C) **Leiko**
    D) **Sandy**
11. How does the Starjammer called **Ch'od** breathe?
    A) Lungs
    B) Gills
    C) Lungs or gills, as needed
    D) Through his small pet, **Cr'reee**
12. Wolverine's first costume change was to the outfit he prized from the alien:
    A) **Fang**
    B) **Claw**
    C) **Tooth**
    D) **Gums**
13. One of Shang-Chi's first major espionage exploits was against the drug runner and nuclear terrorist named:
    A) **Velcro**
    B) **Qiana**
    C) **Evian**
    D) **Teflon**
14. Which Starjammer has feathers?
    A) Ch'od
    B) **Sikorsky**
    C) **Raza**
    D) Corsair
15. Which Marvel character was the first to guest-star in MASTER OF KUNG FU?
    A) **Iron Fist**
    B) **Man-Thing**
    C) **Nick Fury**
    D) **Devil Dinosaur**
16. **Nightcrawler** was the first of the new X-Men to be recruited by **Charles Xavier**; which was Wolverine?
    A) 2nd
    B) 3rd
    C) 4th
    D) 7th
17. The Starjammers met each other initially in:
    A) the **Shi'ar** slave pits
    B) an interstellar battle between the Shi'ar the the **Mephitisoids**
    C) a Brood hatching cell
    D) a video dating service
18. The seeming death of what character led to Shang-Chi's break with his father, **Fu Manchu**?
    A) **Sir Denis Nayland Smith**
    B) **Fah Lo Suee**
    C) **Dr. Petri**
    D) **Kato**
19. The **Wendigo** that Wolverine fought in his first published exploit was the mystically transformed:
    A) **Paul Cartier**
    B) **Georges Baptiste**
    C) **Francois Lartigue**
    D) **Bob MacKenzie**
20. In what title did Shang-Chi premiere?
    A) MASTER OF KUNG FU
    B) SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION
    C) MARVEL PREVIEW
    D) DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU

THE MARVEL AGE INTERVIEW



BOB LAYTON

Why Bob Layton? Who is he? Well, for starters he is one of the co-creators of X-FACTOR. He's written and drawn *two* Limited Series and worked on many of Marvel's top titles including IRON MAN! And now he has a Graphic Novel coming out, starring the same big guy he did two Limited Series of: HERCULES. I talked with Bob on a rainy Friday while CAPTAIN AMERICA penciler, **Kieron Dwyer**, merely sat there taking up space. This is what I got.

GREG: Okay, Bob. Why **Hercules**?

BOB: You mean originally, years ago?

GREG: Yes, the first Limited Series.

BOB: I had just come off a successful run of IRON MAN (with **David Michelinie** and **John Romita Jr.**), which took place in a more realistic setting. A setting of industrial intrigue and espionage, fast cars and fast living. And, I wanted to do something in the fantasy vein. Something with a more tongue-in-cheek approach.

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, LACKEYS! AFTER THE OLYMPIAN'S DEAD -- YOU ARE TO SLAY HIS COMPANIONS!
HERCULES -- I HAVE COME FOR YOU! TODAY -- YOU DIE!!

IRON MAN was fairly serious. We dealt with alcoholism and things of that nature. I really wanted to try something a little more light-hearted. Something that kind of poked fun at the grandiose scale of the Marvel Universe. For so long, characters such as **Galactus** and the **Skrulls** have been taken so seriously, and most of the writers up here have done their own version of the Kree-Skrull epic. I wanted to say, "Well, they're *all* kind of goofy." Outer space is a goofy place with a lot of strange looking "people" and "things." Herc seemed to be a prime candidate for all that, being a five thousand year old adolescent. He would stand out like a sore thumb in a pristine, highly advanced civilization.

GREG: What made you decide to do the second Limited Series?

BOB: Actually, Marvel decided that I would do a second one. Hercules, as well as **Wolverine** were the first two Limited Series that Marvel did, actually. Both were very successful. **Jim Shooter**, who was editor in chief at the time, came to me and said "This was fun and we did real well with this. Can you do it again? But don't do the same thing, use Herc." So I did.

GREG: In the first Limited Series (which is being reprinted in a trade paperback), Herc was sent out to learn humility. What was the basis for the second Limited Series?

BOB: Well, he was humbled a lot in the first Limited Series and the second was . . . what did he learn? Did he learn any thing at all? As you can tell from it, not much! But enough. I think that comics should deal with the most

important issues facing our audience, and that's growing up. Most of us who work in this business are still facing those issues. We grew up with the characters in the Marvel Universe. They grew as we did. HERCULES is a fun way to present problems faced by adolescents.

KIERON: Being that Herc is a five thousand year old adolescent.

BOB: Right. Exactly. Had he been born in the sixties, he'd be hot-roddin' down the boulevard looking for hot chicks.

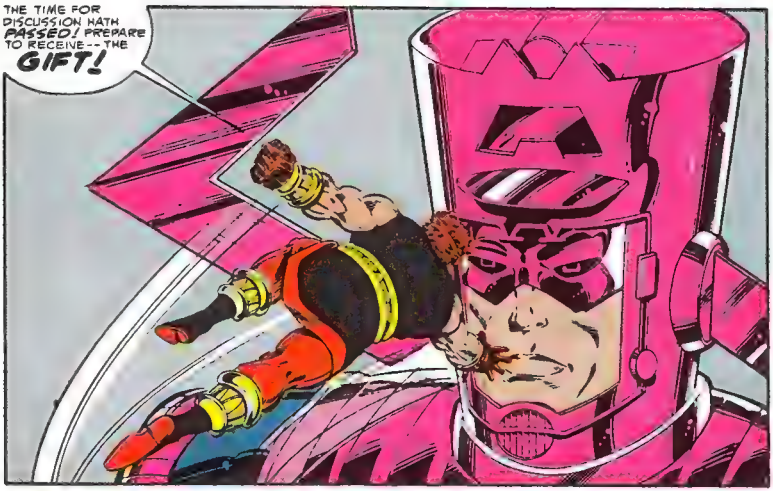
GREG: So what we get in the Graphic Novel is an adult — uh, a more mature Hercules. What is left for him to learn?

BOB: The thing is, Herc didn't learn very much. But he learned enough. I realized, growing up myself, being a father — you know that old line "When you hear yourself you sound like your parents"?

GREG: Yeah.

BOB: It occurred to me that somewhere along the line Herc should sound like his father, **Zeus**. He is going to understand what his father was trying to do by making him "grow up so fast." The idea of the Graphic Novel is to bring this "Full Circle," which is the title of the story. I wanted to put Herc in the role of his father and Herc's son in the role of Herc. So we're back to the original premise, but this time all the characters have played musical chairs. Herc's son is hovering on the edge of good and evil. And it's a real life or death situation for Herc. It

Art is from the HERCULES Graphic Novel



sounds pretty grim, but it is done in the same light-hearted manner as both Limited Series. There's **Skyppi** the Skrull, the **Recorder**, grills and bars (or is that bar and grills?), chases, Herc's bevy of beauties, and of course, a giant inflatable GALACTUS doll, without which, no story is complete

GREG: On sale in comic shops everywhere?

BOB: Yeah! After the purchase of the Graphic Novel!

GREG: Hey, there's an idea, think Marvel would do it?

BOB: I just want to say that Kieron Dwyer has nothing to do with this Graphic Novel, but he is here.

THE GRAPHIC

"So . . . Onward friends! I have a destiny to fulfill and a new race that awaits aborning!" shouted **Hercules** at the conclusion of his second Limited Series.

Riding off into the stars, his faithful **Recorder** and the trusted **Skyppi the Skrull** at his side, the scion of Olympus probably wouldn't have been so eager to accomodate the Fates had he known what was awaiting him in the pages of his first Graphic Novel.

Only moments before Hercules rode away with his friends in the second Limited Series, his father, **Zeus**, had briefly explained why he had previously banished his favorite son from Olympus. As the Fates had long since decreed, there would come a time when a new race of demi-gods would appear to replace Zeus and his immortal clan. Worried that Hercules wasn't maturing fast enough to fulfill his preordained role of sire to a new race, his father had prompted him through the maturing process. (It all started in the first HERCULES Limited Series, which if you missed the first time around, is now available in a high-quality trade paperback.) In his zeal to join his fellow immortals in the Olympian equivalent of Heaven, Zeus apparently "forgot" to tell Hercules he had already inadvertantly fathered the first child of this race of new gods — and that was thirty years ago!

Imagine Hercules' surprise then, when in the first few pages of "Full Circle," the new 74-page Graphic Novel by **Bob Layton**, he discovers he missed out on those tender years when male-bonding occurs between father and son. For that matter, by the time Hercules learns of the existence of young **Arimathes**, his thirty year old son has already done quite well for himself by becoming the invincible conqueror turned despotic ruler of a good portion of the Andromeda Galaxy. And on top of that, Arimathes hates his father's immortal guts!

Rather than reveling in his son's dubious accomplishments, an angered and ashamed Hercules ponders where his son went astray. He has to look no farther than the real power behind the throne, **Layana Sweetwater**! (Hercules' spurned lover from the second issue of the first Limited Series.) Still the grand manipulator of men and power that

KIERON: I'll read it.

GREG: Is this the end of the "Herc Saga" for you?

BOB: That's a great question. You know the answer though.

GREG: I'll fake my surprise. No one will know.

BOB: I just did my first present-day Herc story for SOLO AVENGERS, so there is that. But the future Herc . . . I intended to wrap up the story, but started asking more questions and . . . um, well, let's put it this way. For now it's the end of my Herc. But chances are I'll do it again because I love the character so much.

GREG: So what else are you working on these days?

BOB: My sanity. I'm doing IRON MAN of course. Kieron doesn't have anything to do with that either, although he has drawn him in CAPTAIN AMERICA! I ink and co-plot IRON MAN with the incredibly talented David Michelinie, who co-plots and scripts the book, and dazzling new penciler **Jackson Guice**. Check it out. I'm having a great time with the book. We have some exciting plans for the future. Look for the return of the **Ghost**, a refurbished version of the **Mandarin**, and a significant tragic event for **Tony Stark**. And of course guest stars such as **Spider-Man** and **Ant Man**.

GREG: Any new projects coming up?

BOB: Well, Dave and I would like to do POWER MAN. The original version of LUKE CAGE — HERO FOR HIRE by **Archie Goodwin** were some of the best comics written. I think the premise got a little lost over time. We'd like to do the book more like the original and call it CAGE — THE LEGEND OF POWER MAN. He would basically be a bounty hunter going after escaped bad guys such as **Doc Ock**. We may do a one-shot and if it does well . . .

GREG: Do you have anything to say to only readers of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE?

BOB: Yes. I've done more covers than anyone else for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

And there you have it. Thanks to Bob and Maxell tape for this informative look into the . . . into the . . . aw, just thanks.

—Gregory Wright

NOVEL

she was during their first encounter three decades before, only now aged and embittered by memories of her unrequited love, she's used her son's inherited godlike strength and other abilities to subjugate the planets in her star system of Willamean.

Whereas a younger, more immature Hercules would surely have come out swinging in his noble attempt to free the tyrannically ruled inhabitants of an enslaved galaxy, this future version of the Prince of Power is only slightly more refined as he's inclined to deal with the conflict as a father instead of as a warrior born. Realizing that his estranged son is precariously balanced on the precipice of Good and Evil, convinced that misguided Arimathes is capable of great acts of nobility and compassion — Hercules does his best to resolve both the galactic and familial conflicts he encounters.

Although, as always, Hercules' heart is in the right place, he becomes painfully aware that for all his vaunted strength, he can't keep from suffering the same fate that has faced all first-time fathers since time immemorial. That is he's forced to stumble through the child-rearing experience in a series of sometimes comical, sometimes poignant, trials and errors. Naturally lacking in the grace and diplomacy of such notable fathers as **Mike Brady** and **Cliff Huxtable**, Hercules attempts to bridge the communication gap by imparting Arimathes the ancient wisdom that's learned by being on the receiving end of "The Gift!" (Translated, that means the spoiled brat gets a good sound spanking. In true Olympian tradition however, this could mean a Spanking to the Death!)

Along the way there are appearances by Layana's exiled ex-husband, a spy who was on the receiving end of one of Hercules' legendary drinking bouts (what this spy does to Arimathes' sandals has to be seen to be appreciated!), and . . . Galactus(?)! The core of the story, however, revolves around Hercules' latest adventure as the hot-headed perpetual child grows up to discover he's the father of his own hot-headed perpetual child and that his life has verily come full circle . . .

—Scott Lobdell

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Fasten your seat belts, Frantic Ones, we've got a lot of ground to cover this ish!

A short time ago I went to San Francisco to do a few radio and TV interviews. (I mean, if I don't do 'em every so often people start talking about me in the past tense!) Well, while there, I discussed a number of new projects in the works at Marvel Productions and guess which one they asked the most questions about? Actually, you don't have to waste too much time guessing because I'm gonna tell you all about it right now!

The thing that got the greatest reaction was the announcement that New World Video is producing a brand new videocassette based on the best-selling book, HOW TO DRAW COMICS THE MARVEL WAY!

Wouldja believe that book was first published ten long years ago, in 1978? It's been a top seller ever since! So what could be more natural than deciding to put the whole thing on videotape so that any budding comic book artist can not only read it, but hear it and see it move, as well! Best of all, we were lucky enough to get **John Buscema**, the Michaelangelo of comics, who illustrated the book and was the creative genius behind the whole project, to perform his artistic magic right on camera so that anyone buying the cassette can see him and hear him and actually watch the master create his drawings just as though you were sitting in the studio with him!

Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, I don't yet know when the videotape of HOW TO DRAW COMICS THE MARVEL WAY will go on sale, though I'm hoping it won't be too long after you read this mind-boggling message. However, if you can't restrain your impatience, you can always drop a line to the heroic, hard-working gang at New World Video, 1440 South Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025 and ask 'em for the info. They want every Marvel Maniac to feel like you're a part of the glory and wonder of New World! (Okay, I know I'm laying it on kind'a thick, but you've gotta admit that phrase does have a rhapsodic ring to it! Besides, if a guy can't be corny in his own column, then where?)

But wait! Before you go racing out to your video store, I've another few earth-shattering announcements to make, and they concern one of my all-time favorite characters! (No, **De-Falco**, I'm not referring to myself — though that wasn't a bad guess!)

The time has come for one and all to talk about — **The Silver Surfer**!

Let's start with **Jean Giraud**, better known to fans throughout the world as the great French artist, **Moebius**! Some month's ago, everybody's favorite editor, **Slim-Jim Salicrup**, printed some of Moebius's illustrations in a never-to-be-forgotten issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE (although I forget which issue it was!). Well, Mobey himself saw them and was thrilled at the way they looked when reproduced on comic book paper. You see, he'd previously only been printed in expensive, slick-paper mags. One thing led to another and he told everybody's favorite editor (I should explain, I'm referring to **Seymour Everybody**, Salicrup's second-cousin) that he'd like to do a comic book for us. Which character did he want to draw? Hey, you guessed it! Oi' Surfey himself!

Now here comes the best part — at least from my point of view! Everyone decided (after I twisted their arms and finally untied 'em) that yours truly, the scintillatin' Soapboxer himself, would write the script!

So even as we speak, I'm waiting for Mobey to finish the artwork so I can get my grubby little fingers on it and start soaring with the Surfer once more!

Wow, are you lucky! I've got still another announcement for you! I can just see the tears of gratitude welling up in your thankful little eyes! But that's okay, you deserve all this benevolence! For, truly it hath been written, when thou joinest the ranks of Marvel, the wonderment doth never cease!

Stan Lee and John Buscema re-unite for a special SILVER SURFER Graphic Novel!

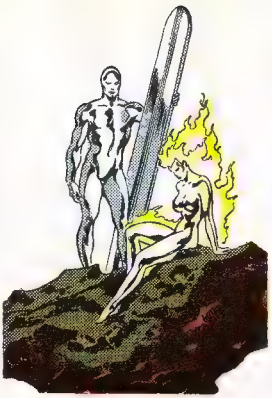
And wonderment this is! In fact, it's a genuine double whammy! Not only will you have a Silver Surfer masterpiece drawn by Moebius to look forward to, but there's another one on its way by Big John Buscema, the man who glorified our high-flying hero some years ago in one of the greatest comic book series ever illustrated. Who can ever forget those glorious eighteen consecutive issues, chronicling the awesome adventures of **Norrin Radd** as he triumphed over every fantastic foe that we could toss against him?

Well, Big John has now devised a new Graphic Novel format for illustrating one of the Surfer's most unusual tales. I won't spoil the suspense by giving away the secret now. All I dare tell you is you've never seen a graphic novel like it! And if I don't start writing it pretty soon, you'll never see this one, either! Oh, that's right, in case I forgot to tell you, I'll be scripting this one, too! But hey, don't be a sorehead; buy it anyway! Give the kid a break!

And now, let us passionately pause for a personal note.

This is as good a place as any to thank Marvel, and New World, and especially you for allowing me to savor one of life's greatest pleasures. (No, Slim-Jim, I'm not referring to my wife. That I did on my own!) Just think of it — I've always been a fan of great artists and writers. You're probably a fan, too, so you know what I mean. Well, imagine being able to actually work with the people whom I so genuinely admire and respect. Imagine being able to write the scripts for a Moebius, a Buscema, and so many of the other artistic titans with whom I've collaborated! And to get paid for it, too! Though perhaps I'd better scratch that last sentence; the guys upstairs are liable to have second thoughts about my salary!

Anyway, I'm sure you know what I mean, so there's no sense getting maudlin about it. It's just that I'm real proud to be associated with the Mighty Marvel Bullpen and the awesome animators of Marvel Productions as



well as the New World Commandos and the great bunch of fans since **Sally Rand** did her thing! (Wow, I suddenly feel like I'm onstage at the Oscar Awards making a thank you speech — and the nutty part of it is, I haven't even won anything!)

Anyway, since you're still my captive audience, I might as well clue you in to one more exciting project coming your way . . .

For the past few years we've received more requests than we can count for a profusely illustrated book that would give the complete history of Marvel, dating back to the very earliest days when we started publishing comics!

Obviously, such a book would be a backbreaking task, so we've kept putting the requests on the shelf, promising ourselves that we'd get to it "someday." Well, someday is here! The book is in the works! It's gonna be a gorgeous, giant-sized, coffee-table volume with fantastic examples of Marvel artwork from the 1930's to the present! You will learn, in words and pictures, more than you ever thought you'd want to know about Mighty Marvel, and in so doing, you'll also receive a unique and priceless education in the field of contemporary art and pop literature as only the blushin' Bullpen can present it!

But fear not, O Seeker of the Truth! This will not be the only announcement you will see about THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF MARVEL COMICS! I can safely promise that we will not leave a stone unturned to add to your fund of knowledge, to keep you fully aware and informed of our progress and to find some way to relieve you of the price of a copy!

You'll find ads galore in all our titles, notices in every fanzine, reminders ad nauseam in Soapbox after Soapbox, and if possible, we'll even have **Professor X** contact you telepathically! Naturally, we're not doing this just to sell our books! Our true purpose is our noble, unselfish desire to bring the public the education to which it is so irrevocably entitled under our grand and glorious Constitution and the ever-popular Bill of Rights! And if you believe that, we have a gen-u-wine Martian minted diamond we'd like to sell you for a buck ninety-eight!

But enough of this heroically high-minded huckstering. The time has come for me to abandon these philosophical pursuits and turn you loose to savor the remaining pages and pleasures of this inimitable issue!

So, till Fate once again brings us face-to-face for another adventure in culture, let me leave you with this momentously moving and meaningful message . . . ,

You can lead a horse to water,
but you can't make him drink!
You can lead a man to knowledge,
but you can't make him think!
You can throw corks in the ocean,
but you can't make 'em sink!
Why do villains rarely walk?
They mostly always slink!

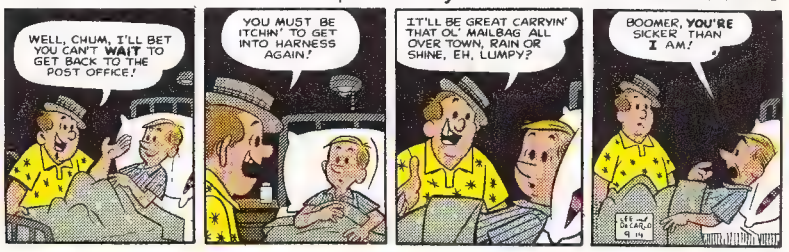
Hey, you want Shakespeare, go to the library!

Excelsior!

Stan

WILLIE LUMPKIN

© 1988 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


WELL, CHUM, I'LL BET YOU CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO THE POST OFFICE!
YOU MUST BE ITCHIN' TO GET INTO HARNESS AGAIN!
IT'LL BE GREAT CARRYIN' THAT OL' MAILBAG ALL OVER TOWN, RAIN OR SHINE, EH, LUMPY?
BOOMER, YOU'RE SICKER THAN I AM!

YOU!!

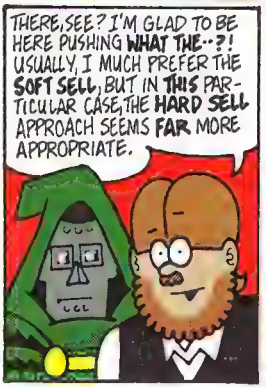
YES, FOOL, YOU!

WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, SO LISTEN TO ME. MARVEL COMICS WILL SOON BE COMING OUT WITH A FOUR ISSUE LIMITED SERIES ENTITLED WHAT THE--?!

--"EMPEROR DOOM," MY FAVORITE MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL! AND, AVAILABLE SOON, FROM MY VERY OWN PUBLISHING COMPANY, "EMPEROR DOOM: THE CORRECT ENDING," AN EVEN MORE SATISFYING TOME THAN THE ORIGINAL!

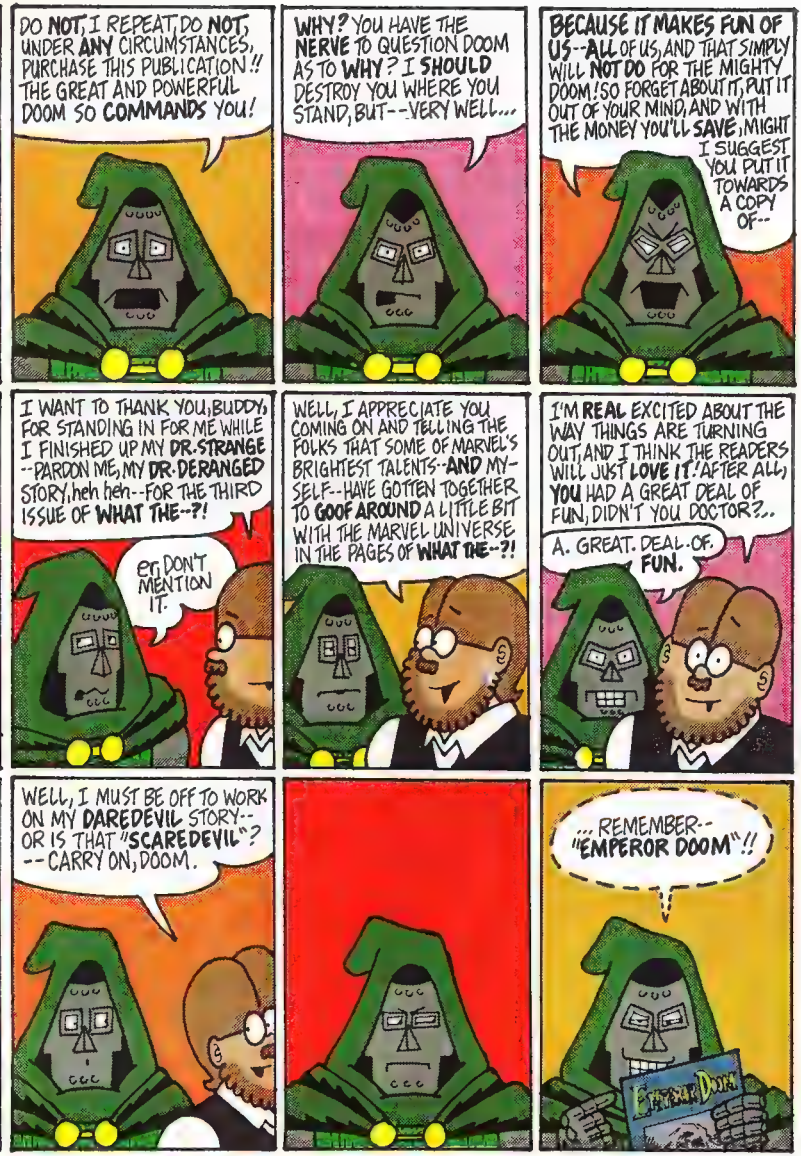
NO, I DON'T HAVE THEIR PERMISSION, BUT DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT MARVEL COMICS IS CAPABLE OF STOPPING ME??
HAH!

HEY, DOC!..
eh?


THERE, SEE? I'M GLAD TO BE HERE PUSHING WHAT THE--?! USUALLY, I MUCH PREFER THE SOFT SELL, BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE HARD SELL APPROACH SEEMS FAR MORE APPROPRIATE.

WHY? WELL, TWO REASONS. ONE: I THINK FANS SOMETIMES NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THE WORTHINESS OF HUMOR IN A MEDIUM THAT'S UNJUSTLY PERCEIVED AS AN ALMOST WHOLLY DRAMATIC ONE.

AND TWO: HAVING 3 STORIES IN THE SERIES, THE SUCCESS OF WHAT THE?! COULD DIRECTLY INFLUENCE THE SIZE OF MY WALLET, SHOULD IT CATCH ON! SO MY MESSAGE TO EVERYONE IS SIMPLE: BUY WHAT THE--?! BUY WHAT THE--?! BUY WHAT THE--?!


DO NOT, I REPEAT, DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, PURCHASE THIS PUBLICATION!! THE GREAT AND POWERFUL DOOM SO COMMANDS YOU!
WHY? YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO QUESTION DOOM AS TO WHY? I SHOULD DESTROY YOU WHERE YOU STAND, BUT--VERY WELL...
BECAUSE IT MAKES FUN OF US--ALL OF US, AND THAT SIMPLY WILL NOT DO FOR THE MIGHTY DOOM! SO FORGET ABOUT IT, PUT IT OUT OF YOUR MIND, AND WITH THE MONEY YOU'LL SAVE, MIGHT I SUGGEST YOU PUT IT TOWARDS A COPY OF--
I WANT TO THANK YOU, BUDDY, FOR STANDING IN FOR ME WHILE I FINISHED UP MY DR. STRANGE --PARDON ME, MY DR. DERANGED STORY, heh heh--FOR THE THIRD ISSUE OF WHAT THE--?!
eg, DON'T MENTION IT.
WELL, I APPRECIATE YOU COMING ON AND TELLING THE FOLKS THAT SOME OF MARVEL'S BRIGHTEST TALENTS--AND MYSELF--HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER TO GOOF AROUND A LITTLE BIT WITH THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IN THE PAGES OF WHAT THE--?!
I'M REAL EXCITED ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE TURNING OUT, AND I THINK THE READERS WILL JUST LOVE IT! AFTER ALL, YOU HAD A GREAT DEAL OF FUN, DIDN'T YOU DOCTOR?..
A. GREAT. DEAL. OF. FUN.
WELL, I MUST BE OFF TO WORK ON MY DAREDEVIL STORY-- OR IS THAT "SCAREDEVIL"? --CARRY ON, DOOM.
... REMEMBER-- "EMPEROR DOOM"!!

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 6

"AND THE WINNER IS . . ."

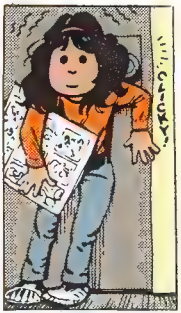
. . . ALCHEMY!

Paul Beatsow of Sheffield, England, won the Marvel Comics Mutant Drawing with his entry, Alchemy. Picked by ex-X-editor Ann Nocenti, Paul's letter was one of over eight thousand entries sent in by mutant lovers from all over the world who responded to the mutant registration cards inserted in X-MEN #224, THE NEW MUTANTS #56, and X-FACTOR #23.

Alchemy possesses the power to transform the chemical make-up of any non-organic matter, such as changing lead into gold! Alchemy will debut in a future issue of THE NEW MUTANTS written by Louse Simonson. Congratulations, Paul!

Ann Nocenti picks the winning entry.

Ann can't seem to contain her excitement as she selects the winning entry. Neo-Editor Terry Kavanagh steps in to restore order



Be here next issue, when Bobbie Chase interviews Ann concerning her mutant past, and her freelancing future. Meanwhile, check out the full story on MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE beginning on the very next page!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE

This month Marvel launches something the like of which it has never done before, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, a comic that every two weeks will feature four different characters from the Marvel Universe in their own eight-page stories. Many of these stories will be continued epics, usually lasting for eight installments; other stories will be complete in one issue. As soon as one character's serial concludes, another one featuring an entirely different character will take its place. And the stars of these series will range from prominent stars of current Marvel titles, such as Wolverine and the Silver Surfer to characters whose series have not been seen in many years, like Shang-Chi and the Man-Thing.

The groundwork for the biweekly was laid by its original editor, Michael Higgins, who lined up most of the material you will see in the first several months of the series. Mike has recently gone freelance, and the biweekly has been taken over by Terry Kavanagh, who was Ann Nocenti's assistant editor on the X-MEN books and was recently promoted to full editor himself.

Explaining how the idea for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS came about, Mike recounts, "When Tom DeFalco became editor in chief, we started having creative meetings on Thursday afternoons with all the

Fantastic cover by Walt Simonson.

editors. There were several projects that were suggested at the same time." One of these was what was to become MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, but for a while was called MARVEL UNIVERSE. Originally conceived as a weekly, there was concern that the audience might prefer a different frequency. We asked the readers of The Comics Buyer's Guide what they thought. The overwhelming response — almost 3 to 1 — was for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS to be biweekly.

"Mark Gruenwald, Carl Potts, and I volunteered for the committee to work on the weekly book," Mike says, and Mike himself ended up editing the project. "I volunteered to take the book and I was very interested in doing it. A lot of people thought it was impossible to do this kind of book; I thought it was possible."

Although the biweekly can and will use any Marvel Universe character, including those who regularly appear in their own series, Mike also wanted to utilize characters who were not appearing regularly elsewhere. This was in order to avoid overexposing Marvel's main characters and also so as not to tread on the continuity in those characters' regular series. So Higgins wanted to bring back classic Marvel series that had not been seen for years, and furthermore, he wanted to recruit artists and writers who had not been seen much in Marvel books for years as well. "There was a feeling among a number of people who hadn't worked for Marvel for years that the time was right to come back," Mike states. "They were willing to work for Marvel again, and I called a lot of them up."

Actually, from one perspective, MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is firmly in a longstanding tradition of the Marvel "split book" of the 1960s. Back then there were several books, such as TALES OF SUSPENSE, featuring Captain America and Iron Man, which featured two ten to twelve page stories centering on different heroes. Often those stories were individual installments in long, ongoing continued serials. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is in a way a "split book" with four stories per issue instead of just two!

Although every issue of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS will have new installments of two or three continued stories, there are many self-contained, one-part stories being done for the biweekly as well. "Every reader who picks up an issue will have one complete story, sometimes two," Mike promises, and Terry intends to continue this policy.

Various people outside Marvel have wondered aloud or in print whether Marvel can actually produce high quality material for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS in the enormous quantities that a biweekly will demand. Mike, though, says, "I'm confident that the material for this book is really strong and good. I've never worked on a book that I believe in as much as this one." None of this material, Mike points out, will be from pre-existing inventory stories done for other books, because you can't just break up a 24-page story into 8-page segments and make it work. "The pacing is completely different. All the material has to be done new for this book." Terry Kavanagh comments that "I'm looking forward to working on the biweekly immensely, partly because Michael has some great stuff prepared. He's laid all the groundwork. It's really fun stuff to work on. It's all those classic Marvel series brought back again."

And when you consider what has already been lined up for the biweekly, you'll see that Mike and Terry have plenty of justification for their enthusiasm for this project.

THE FIRST ISSUES

The first issues of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS feature a character whom readers have long wanted to see in his own regular series: WOLVERINE, written by Chris Claremont, with breakdowns by John Buscema and finished art by Klaus Janson. In fact, after the ten-part serial in the biweekly, WOLVERINE will spin off into its own regular monthly 32-page comic book by the same creative team.

Chris says, "The biweekly series and the regular series could best be summed up as 'Wolverine unleashed.' The mood we're trying for is TERRY AND

THE PIRATES meets CONAN with a soupcon of FU MANCHU thrown in. So the villains are insidious but stylish, and the women are by turns seductively evil, seductively good. Wolverine is like John Wayne: he won't be wronged, he won't be lied to, he won't be laid hands on. He doesn't do these things to others, and he requires the same of them. If you just get in his way, he will move you aside. If you're an out and out villain, you may never practice villainy again."

The biweekly series brings Wolverine to Madripoor, which Chris describes as a "den of thieves, iniquity, and vice somewhere south of Indonesia," where Wolverine gets involved in a gang war involving a crimelord named Roche, an energy vampiress named Sapphire Styx, and a villain from the old MASTER OF KUNG FU series who seems to be an inevitable opponent for Wolverine's claws, Razorfist.

Claremont speaks highly of the work John Buscema is doing on the series as it progresses, calling it "some of the best stuff he's done in years," and Mike similarly terms Klaus Janson's work on WOLVERINE "Klaus's best inking in years."

An eight-part MASTER OF KUNG FU serial is the second series in the biweekly, written by Doug Moench, who did most of the stories in the original MASTER OF KUNG FU comic book, penciled by Tom Grindberg and inked by Dave Cockrum, an artist whose work has not been seen much at Marvel recently but who is also returning to the biweekly. Longtime Marvel readers will recall that the title character of MASTER OF KUNG FU is Shang-Chi, the son of the legendary archvillain Fu Manchu. After discovering his father's evil nature, Shang-Chi allied himself with Fu Manchu's foes in British intelligence. But Shang-Chi's relationship with these allies was often an uneasy one, for he had a distaste for what he termed their "games of deceit and death." At the end of the book's run, Shang-Chi left the world of espionage behind and retired to the simple life of a fisherman.

Doug Moench left MASTER OF KUNG FU half a decade ago, and, except for his work on Epic's SIX FROM SIRIUS, has not returned to scripting for Marvel until now. "MASTER OF KUNG FU was always one of my favorite series to write," Doug says. "I have to admit I was ambivalent when Mike Higgins asked me to do it again, because I'd sort of put it in the past. But I started thinking about it, and the old attraction to it came back slowly and then quicker and quicker.

"But I didn't want to do it the same way I'd done it before." The series has its roots in Sax Rohmer's FU MANCHU novels, and Moench gave it a feel reminiscent of James Bond-style spy fiction. This time, however, Doug wants the series to deal with a topic "from today's headlines, the absolute brutality of terrorism, what foreign intrigue really is these days, which is very bloody and nasty. It doesn't have a James Bond or John Le Carre style to it at all. When MASTER OF KUNG FU started fifteen years ago, there was terrorism even then. But comics were more innocent then."

Referring to the time he spent away from the series, Doug says, "The five year break let me come back to it from a fresh perspective. If I had continued doing it over the last five years, it probably would have slowly evolved into close to what I'm doing now, but it wouldn't be as abrupt or shocking as it is now" after the five year gap.

Describing the story, Doug says, "It's Shang-Chi's return to our world after having been off meditating as a fisherman for years. Not only is the world differ-

ent now, but he'd had years to forget what it was like even before, and he has been changed by leading the simple life of a fisherman. Black Jack Tarr has taken over the old agency, and Reston and Leiko are still with him in it. The story deals with terrorism, primarily, and it deals with the changes that have happened to Shang-Chi in the course of his return to the world and his seeing how awful it is. It also has Shen Kuei, 'Cat,'" a longtime character from the original series, whom Doug says he always liked.

"The title of the story is 'Crossing Lines,' and it has three or four different meanings, one of which is that I wanted to cross some lines personally that had never been crossed in the strip in the past." In fact, the serial has "a fairly shocking ending which could either be the end of the series for all time or just a starting point for an entirely new situation." Mike Higgins, by the way, has also commissioned a CONAN graphic novel by Doug and his former KUNG FU collaborator, artist Paul Gulacy

The third ongoing series in the first issues of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is an eleven-part MAN-THING serial, written by Steve Gerber, the man most associated with the character, and penciled and inked by Tom Sutton, whose art Mike describes as "The best work he's ever done." As for Steve's script, Mike approvingly quotes another Marvel staffer as commenting that "This is the kind of material Marvel hasn't published in years and that should be done."

For those readers who are new to the character, it should be explained that the Man-Thing was Ted Sallis, a scientist who was transformed into a nearly mindless swamp creature with an empathic nature that reacts to the emotions of others, and most violently against fear. It is less easy to characterize the MAN-THING series of the 1970s. "You could never really pin down that series as to what it really was," Steve Gerber recalls. "We used to say that every issue of the MAN-THING book would be an entirely different kind of story. We used to do a science-fiction story one month and sword and sorcery the next month and a human interest story the month after that."

The MAN THING serial in the biweekly is itself a mixture of different genres. "The story is a political intrigue, very loosely based on the Iran-Contra affair, with some science-fiction elements and some horror elements," Steve says

Steve is in fact returning to MAN-THING on three different fronts. The character is also a guest star in this year's WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, which Steve is writing. Steve is also collaborating with artist Kevin Nowlan on a MAN-THING Graphic Novel, which will be a sequel to one of the series' most celebrated

stories, "Song-Cry of the Living Dead Man."

Finally, the initial four issues of the biweekly also feature a quartet of self contained stories written, penciled, and inked by Al Milgrom, each of which pits a new villain, the Fearworm, against a different hero: in order of appearance those heroes are the Silver Surfer, the original Captain America (in his current identity as "the Captain"), the Thing, and Thor.

IN TIMES TO COME

But this is not the whole story of the biweekly by a long shot, because there is even more material already in the works. For example, there is the return of KILLRAVEN, WARRIORS OF THE WORLDS, by the two creators most associated with the series in the 1970s, writer Don McGregor and artist P. Craig Russell.

"It's a little bit intimidating to be coming back to finish a series when some people have been waiting for that ending for something like fourteen years," Don McGregor says. But finish it he will. Killraven was the leading character of Marvel's WAR OF THE WORLDS series in AMAZING ADVENTURES, a series inspired by H.G. Wells's classic science-fction novel. Marvel's version presented an alternate future in which the Martians returned to Earth and conquered it, only to face the formidable opposition of Killraven and his band of Freemen. The new serial for the biweekly, Don says, will be "the actual end of the War of the Worlds, the battle between Earth and Mars." Story elements set up in some of the earliest WAR OF THE WORLDS stories will finally receive their payoffs in this denouement. "We're bringing back a lot of the old characters that the readers wanted to see," Don adds. "Of course, it's a great pleasure to be working with Craig again, and that's very exciting."

Then there is THE DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN eight-parter written by Danny Fingeroth and penciled by Kerry Gammill, which centers not on Spider-Man himself, but on the super-villains who comprise the Sinister Syndicate, including his longtime adversaries, the Beetle and the Rhino, as well as Boomerang, Hydro-Man, and the Speed Demon. The Kingpin and the Shocker also turn up. Fingeroth says that the series "gives us a close-up look at the lives of super-villains and why they do the things they do despite the obstacles they know are out there. What do villains do in between the times they're battling their heroic counterparts? What about their organizations, loyalties, families, and loved ones? Plus there'll be lots of action as the villains battle Spider-Man, the law, and each other."

You want more? There's the revival of THE ETERNALS in a series written by Roy Thomas, another recent returnee to Marvel, and penciled by Mark Texiera, in which the origin of a new character with powers surpassing other Eternals is explored. (Mike, by the way, also set into motion a forthcoming comic book titled SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER, in which Roy Thomas and artist Rich Buckler trace the Sub-Mariner's life story.) Doug Moench and Kevin Nowlan will collaborate on a MOON KNIGHT serial, set before the character joined the West Coast Avengers, in which he again takes on his foes, Black Spectre and Morpheus. Artist Gene Colan returns to Marvel after many years to pencil a BLACK PANTHER serial written by Don McGregor in which the Panther journeys to South Africa, contends with apartheid, and searches for his mother. In the talking stages is an eight-part revival of TOMB OF DRACULA for the biweekly, reuniting the series' team of Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan, and Tom Palmer.

And there are plenty of shorter stories in the works. There is a two-part CAPTAIN AMERICA story written and penciled by Steve Ditko, a four-part DAREDEVIL tale written and probably laid out by Sandy Plunkett. And there are lots and lots of self-contained one-part stories, with such characters as the Jean Grey version of Phoenix, and Illyana of the New Mutants to name just a few. There's even a WILLIE LUMPKIN two-parter, centering on the Fantastic Four's ear-wiggling mailman, written by MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's own Jim Salicrup and penciled by Richard Howell.

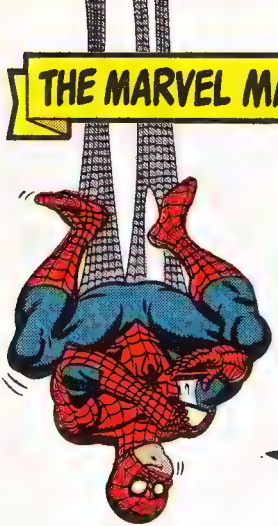
Terry Kavanagh says he wants MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS to continue to feature a wide range of material to appeal to a variety of tastes. "If it's done right, there'll be something for everyone in each issue, and that can get them interested in the other stories and characters that they might not have picked up on their own." As Doug Moench points out, this is an important aspect of having a biweekly anthology book. "People are going to buy it for WOLVERINE, but if they just read the other series in each issue, they might be surprised to find that they can like something other than super heroes."

Steve Gerber takes a historical perspective and points out that "In terms of content and style, a lot of things were being done in the 1970s in books like MAN-THING and MASTER OF KUNG FU that the rest of comics didn't catch up with until sometime in the mid-1980s. This will be a chance, I hope, for readers to take a look at new episodes of those series and see what it was we were doing back then, and where the seeds of the 80s were planted, and hopefully the seeds of the 90s for that matter."

So with MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS we will see both familiar characters and characters we may not have encountered before, some of the best writers and artists from Marvel's past and Marvel's present, and perhaps, more importantly, even the beginnings of new future directions for Marvel and its universe.

— Peter Sanderson

THE MARVEL MAG OF MIRTH AND MAYHEM!™



WHAT THE—?!™

Actually, it all began over 20 years ago, when Marvel first published NOT BRAND ECCH, a humor magazine in the tradition of the original MAD MAGAZINE. NOT BRAND ECCH contained parodies and lampoons of various comics that were popular at the time. Top talents such as **Marie Severin, Tom Sutton,** and **Jack Kirby,** created caricatures to inhabit the "Marble Universe," such as **the Fantastical Four, Spidey-Man, the Inedible Bulk, the Ecchs-Men, Ironed Man,** and **the Mighty Snore** — god of slumber.

But NOT BRAND ECCH didn't limit its humor to Marvel creations. Spidey-Man once even confronted **Gnatman** and **Rotten,** the boy blunder, from the "Brand Ecch Universe." And of course, who could forget that the ever-lovin' **Forbush-Man** made his debut on the cover of NOT BRAND ECCH #1? His origin was subsequently revealed four issues later.

The times have changed, however. There are those who have accused Marvel of taking themselves too seriously in recent times. So the Marvel creative staff decided to do something about it.

A little over a year ago, the Marvel editors held their regular creative meeting, determined to create more innovative ideas for their flourishing mythology. Suddenly, **Carl Potts** jumped up and announced that he was heading a humor committee. This ejaculation instilled the other editors with outbursts of laughter because Carl is known for his rather solemn attitude, editing such hard-hitting titles as THE PUNISHER and STRANGE TALES.

The result of that meeting was the creation of WHAT THE—?! the humor magazine in the grand tradition of NOT BRAND ECCH. WHAT THE—?! will pick up where its predecessor left off. The Marvel Universe has grown quite extensively since NOT BRAND ECCH ran its 13 issue course. Subsequently, the Marble Universe will also be given room to expand. This four-issue Limited Series will feature some of Marvel's top talents lampooning your favorite characters.

Oddly enough (even for *this* project), WHAT THE—?! will be coordinated by *two* editors. Carl Potts will be handling the editing chores on the first two issues, while **Jim Salicrup** will be wrapping up the last two. It seems that *everyone* wanted to get in on the fun of this project!

"I loved NOT BRAND ECCH as a kid," Carl said. "Nothing like it has been done since then, except by other companies. But I figured that we could parody ourselves better than anyone else could. So we decided to test the concept in a four-issue Limited Series.

"I gathered a lot of the top names in the business," he continued. "As with any anthology, it was a pain in the tush to coordinate. But all the work and enthusiasm from everyone has been top-notch—probably the greatest enthusiasm I've encountered on any project—and a whole lot of fun!"

Carl's first issue of WHAT THE—?! features **the Pulverizer,** a **Punisher** farce by writer **Peter Gillis,** penciler **Hilary Barta** and inker **John Severin.** Then, for all of you who have been clamoring for a SECRET WARS III, writer **Gwen Dibley** and artist **Steve Ditko** have answered your prayers with an all-villain parody. Plus the retirement of **Nick Furey, ex-agent of S.H.E.E.L.D.** written by **Fred Hembeck** and drawn by John Severin. And finally, a story featuring all the excuses heroes use to fight each other before they inevitably team up to chase the bad guys entitled "When Titans Bunch!" written by Peter Gillis, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove** and inked by **Al Milgrom.**

WHAT THE—?! #2 features a cover and interior story by **John Byrne** and **Jerry Ordway,** spotlighting their familiar versions of **Superman** vs. the Fantastical Four. Peter Gillis rears his head again to script a fearful tale of a character he's quite familiar with—**Doctor Deranged,** penciled and inked

by **Phil Foglio.** Certainly, **Clunk & Dagnabbit** and the **Bower Brats** are no strangers in the corrupting hands of **Terry Austin** and **June Brigman.** Of course, no Marvel parody would be complete without an appearance by that foul, feisty, favorite furry mutant, **Wolvaream,** by Al Milgrom, **Mike Mignola** and **Al Williamson.**

Jim Salicrup takes the editing reins as of issue #3. "I had suggested a similar project to this one a year or so ago, but it never got pushed through. So when **Tom DeFalco** became editor in chief and discovered that Carl and I were both interested in doing a humor mag, he invoked the wisdom of Solomon and gave us both *two* issues to edit.

"Two issues was a lot of fun to do, and I'm glad I got it all out of my system," Jim said. "It would be fun to do so again, but **Spider-Man** and MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE keep me pretty busy. As far as humor goes, well there's always **Spider-Ham . . .**"

Speaking of which, **Peter Porker** and his web-spinning alter-ego make an appearance in WHAT THE—?! #3 in a "tail" satirizing the recent Kraven Saga. Written by that up-and-coming talented nobody, **Glenn Herdling,** penciled by **Alex Saviuk** and inked by **Bob McLeod,** it's a Spider-Ham story of a different vein than you might expect. Wedded bliss gets lampooned and harpooned in a **Vision** and **Scarlet Witch** takeoff **by Richard Howell** and **Joe Sinnott.** Fred Hembeck returns, as does Docter Deranged, in "The Wacky Discipline of Doctor Deranged."

Wolvaream also returns with the rest

of the Ecchs-Men as they get put through their paces and in their places by **Kurt Busiek** and **Kyle Baker,** in "Mutant Beach Party." And the ever-glory-seeking Hembeck makes his presence felt once more in the final issue as he takes on **Daredevil!**

But that's not all! There'll be **Marvel Balls** and **Marvel Babies** and Bullpen Bulletins, "Pro-Files," letter columns, and even ads! That's right, you won't want to miss a single page of WHAT THE—?! because every page is humorous—even the ads! Thirty-two pages of non-stop hilarity (that's 128 pages in all, plus covers) for only $1.25 each! But don't sue us if you hurt yourself by slapping your knee too hard, or tickling your funny bone the wrong way, because we warned you! At Marvel, comedy is a serious business.

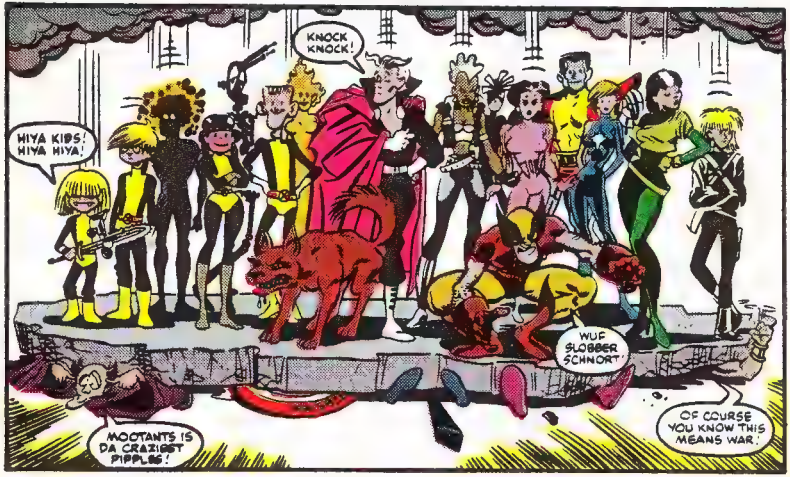
And what's in store for the future of WHAT THE—?! Not even the editors are in agreement. "I hope it does well so that it becomes a regular monthly title," Jim said. "If Carl is game, I'd like to co-edit with him on it. He did a great job and got a lot of good talent on his issues."

However, Carl said, "It's my hope to make WHAT THE—?! a giant-size annual every year. I wouldn't want to put it out on a monthly basis because, after all, too much laughter isn't good for anyone!"

Both editors concur that WHAT THE—?! is an achievement in the comics industry. "I think that there should be a comic like this because Marvel has a plethora of great cartoonists who never get a chance to show off their cartoony styles," Jim said. "This is a great showcase opportunity for them. And it's a great change of pace from their usual super hero/adventure stuff."

Carl echoed Jim's sentiments. "Kids should bring copies to those long, boring lecture hall studies and place them inside their history books under '20th Century History' because that's where they will set a precedent. Buy three copies—one for your collection, one for your friend, and one to keep reading and re-reading which will be used to wipe away the tears from your laughter."

—Glenn Herdling



JACK KIRBY'S HEROES AND VILLAINS™

For years now, visitors to the home of legendary comics creator **Jack Kirby** were advised, "You've gotta see the sketchbook!" Some time back, Jack had purchased a blank sketchbook and kept it with him in his studio; whenever the mood struck him, he'd fill it with classic renderings of the many wondrous heroes whose adventures he had chronicled over his amazing career. When it was filled, he offered it to his wife, **Roz**, as a present and a memento of their years together. Those select of Jack's close friends who got a glimpse of his work always marveled at its power, its craft, its consummate examples of a master at work.

Now, through the generosity of Roz Kirby, the world at large can share in the wonderment! Jack Kirby's SKETCHBOOK OF HEROES AND VILLAINS has been published by Pure Imagination Publishing. Only 1,000 copies were published, each one is signed and numbered by Jack, and the copies are selling fast! It's no wonder, for the finely-crafted volume includes Jack's depictions of nearly every character he has been associated with! The selection ranges from the famous—**Captain America, the Thing, Thor, Superman, Darkseid**. . . the list goes on and on—to the more obscure, but still fascinating: **the Invincible Man, Double-Header,** and **Spragg, the Living Hill!**

Here are the **FF, the Inhumans, the New Gods, the Forever People, the Eternals,** and dozens more—over 130 in all—even **the Rawhide Kid,** even the **Boy Commandos,** even **Conan the Barbarian!** It's not only the history of the King's career, it's a veritable litany of the characters who have made up the history of the super hero!

"Masked or not, his characters were eternally engaged in a ballet of violence, where good ultimately triumphed over evil," writes **Jim Steranko** in a special introduction to the volume. "His protagonists knew more about throwing

punches, leaping across impossible chasms and colliding with danger than all the other paper crusaders combined."

Longtime Kirby collaborator **Greg Theakston** supervised the production of the work, adding that, "it's as magnificent a sketchbook as I've ever seen. In some ways, it's unfair to call it a sketchbook, each page is so fully rendered . . . in some cases without even inking."

Theakston took such care with the publishing that he even mixed the ink that would be used to print the book himself—matching the ink to the exact tone and shimmer that Jack's pencil produced. The result is a book full of art that, when held to the light, reflects it just slightly in the same way that an actual pencil drawing will. He then took it to the peerless textbook publishers of Ann Arbor, Michigan, known for the quality and integrity of their binding. The resulting 8½" x 11" hardbound volume is an art book that can stand proudly on display alongside the work of virtually any illustrator one can name.

The final product of three years of painstaking labor like this, Jack Kirby's SKETCHBOOK OF HEROES AND VILLAINS can be ordered through Pure Imagination Publishing, 86 Lexington Avenue, Suite 9-C, New York, NY 10016. Cost is $50.00 postpaid. If by some freak of fate you've never sampled the glory and grandeur of Jack Kirby, check it out, and see for yourself why the only Marvel nickname that could be given him was that of—King!

—Brian Nelson

THE MARVEL AGE 1977 PART I

The Marvel Universe continued to expand in all directions in 1977, and a good dozen new books of all kinds were released to the world. This month let's look at 1977's new arrivals!

The biggest hit of the year was the comic book edition of STAR WARS, which debuted months before the history-making **George Lucas** film. Writer/editor **Roy Thomas** and artist **Howard Chaykin** adapted the movie over the first six issues of the series, in a beautiful and bold style that took fandom by storm. **Luke**, **Obi-Wan**, **Leia**, **Han Solo**, **Chewbacca**, the droids, and of course **Darth Vader** — all were there to launch a book that would run successfully for the next nine years, expanding and detailing the amazing cosmos of George Lucas.

Not all comics series based on movies were so successful. LOGAN'S RUN, based on the sf movie starring **Michael York**, **Jenny Agutter**, and **Peter Ustinov**, certainly seemed to have all the elements: beautiful **George Perez/Klaus Janson** art, **Paul Gulacy** covers, and its premise of a future society where people over thirty years old are executed by the government. Fascinating as it was, somehow it never took hold, and after five issues to adapt the movie, and two more issues beginning new adventures, the series disappeared forever. Of special interest, however, was the sixth issue, which featured a back-up story pitting **Drax the Destroyer** against his ages-old nemesis, **Thanos**!

The third new Marvel series to be based on a film enjoyed more popularity — while not anywhere near as great a hit as STAR WARS, GODZILLA enjoyed a healthy run of issues, and could always be counted on for entertaining action. At first, to many, the concept of Japan's giant lizard joining the Marvel Universe seemed freaky, even ludicrous — but the creative team of writer **Doug Moench** and artist **Herb Trimpe** managed to make it work, and more than work — it was fun! S.H.I.E.L.D. stalwarts **Dum Dum Dugan** and **Gabe Jones** became regular characters, tracking down the monster and helping to protect Seattle and other metropolises from his unique brand of carnage. **The Champions** made a guest appearance, and **Dr. Demonicus** took over the job of top villain: a mad scientist monster-maker who pitted Goddy against the bizarre mutated creations known as **Batragon**, **Lepirax**, **Ghilaron**, and **Centipor**. Let's face it, there's something salutary about the sight of two giant radioactive monsters beating the tar out of each other, and GODZILLA delivered it in fine fettle.

Two more new books on the scene drew from rather a more prestigious source: the classic fantasy writings of **Edgar Rice Burroughs**. TARZAN at long last was published under the Marvel banner, in stories produced by his devoted admirers, **Roy Thomas** and

artist **John Buscema**. The ERB novel, *Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar*, was chosen first for adaptation, with origin sections for the Lord of the Jungle inserted from the novel that began it all, *Tarzan of the Apes*. Further adventures of Lord Greystoke were adapted in issue 7 and in the first TARZAN ANNUAL, initiating his Marvel career with tradition and style.

Burroughs' other greatest creation, JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS, also became a Marvel headliner. Rather than adapting any of the original novels, however, scripter **Marv Wolfman** and artist **Gil Kane** took a different tack: creating their own **John Carter** novel, to run uninterrupted throughout the first ten issues of the series. "The Air-Pirates of Mars," as it was called, acquainted new readers with the gentleman soldier from Virginia, John Carter, who found himself mysteriously transported to the red planet, to a friendship with the giant, six-armed warrior **Tars Tarkas**, and to marriage with an alien princess, the incomprable **Dejah Thoris**. But it also introduced new characters enmeshed in a devious plot: the machinations of the infamous **Stara Kan** to destroy the atmosphere factories that make life on Barsoom (the native name for Mars) possible at all! For ERB loyalists, the JOHN CARTER ANNUAL presented an adaptation of the story, "The Ancient Dead," but Wolfman and Kane's original work could stand proudly beside the best of the acknowledged master.

Two Marvel heroes who had been headlining other books finally received titles in their own right: RED SONJA, and THE BLACK PANTHER. The adventures of the barbarian heroine, the only swordswoman to get the better of **Conan** the barbarian, continued as they had been under her MARVEL FEATURE banner: fantastic exploits of sword-and-sorcery in the time-lost Hyborian Age, as rendered by the time-tested team of **Roy Thomas** and artist **Frank Thorne**. The she-devil with a sword faced such menaces as the **Demon in the Maze**, **Gita the Spider-Queen** (a relative of Conan's **Omm**), the **Manlings**, and the **Siren in the Singing Tower**. All the time, of course, she held true to her vow, never to love any man who had not first bested her in battle. And who could best **Red Sonja**?

The tales of **T'Challa, the Black Panther**, however, took an about-face; while JUNGLE ACTION had presented introspective and socially conscious adventures, THE BLACK PANTHER was a series written and drawn by **Jack Kirby**, and that meant action, action, action, with a pronounced bent for the fantastic and even the whimsical! T'Challa found himself teamed with the enigmatic **Mr. Little** and the venomous **Princess Zanda**, ruthless collectors who would stop at nothing to add to their list of prized possessions. And their immediate target was King Solomon's Frog, which was not just a valuable ornament from a lost civilization, but the key to an amazing time-travel device! With it in the wrong hands, dangers such as the **Six-Million-Year Man** came from the future to menace our world, and only the Prince of Wakanda could stop them! Kirby's imaginative hand would take the African Avenger into battle against the **Yeti**, the City of Samurai, and far stranger menaces in the months to come!

1977 also saw the birth of "the wildest super hero of all — because he's real!" Based on the adventures of a real-life masked daredevil, THE HUMAN FLY was the brainchild of **Bill Mantlo**, who brought a new angle to super heroes! Primarily a stunt artist who specialized in charity benefits, the **Human Fly's** Marvel Comics career teamed him with the **Ghost Rider**, sent him into the fortress of fear, and challenged him to save hostages the police couldn't reach! A forerunner of the vigilante characters so popular lately, the Human Fly was constantly dogged by suspicious reporter **Harmony Whyte**, ably assisted by his team of loyal aides, and illustrated by artists ranging from **Frank Springer** to **Carmine Infantino** to Golden Age great **Lee Elias**!

The tagline for 1977's other premiering crimefighter was: "This female fights back!" Although the slogan was dropped early on, it helped start the female fury, MS. MARVEL, on her long and checkered career.

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Let's say you were in Peru or Madagascar back in 1977, and missed the premieres of the Marvel monuments we've covered this month! Here's what you can expect to pay for back issues of these books at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember this is only a guide, and prices should be lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **BLACK PANTHER**			
1		.40	.80
2–6		.25	.50
■ **GODZILLA**			
1		.50	1.00
2–5		.30	.60
■ **THE HUMAN FLY**			
1		.40	.80
2–4		.25	.50
■ **JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS**			
1		.50	1.00
2–7		30	.60
ANNUAL 1		.40	.80
■ **LOGAN'S RUN**			
1		.40	.80
2–7		.25	.50
■ **MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIAL**			
1 **(KISS)**	.85	2.50	5.00
2 **(CONAN)**	.50	1 50	3.00
■ **MS. MARVEL**			
1		50	1.00
2		.30	.60
3–12		.25	.50
■ **THE RAMPAGING HULK**			
1	.50	1.50	3.00
2 **(X-Men)**	.35	1.00	2 00
3–6		50	1.00
■ **RED SONJA**			
1	.35	1.10	2.20
2–5	.30	.80	1 60
6		40	80
■ **STAR WARS**			
1 (30¢ edition)	1 35	4.00	8.00
1 (35¢ edition, limited distribution)	18.50	55.00	130.00
1–6 (reprints)		.25	.50
5–6	50	1 50	3.00
■ **TARZAN**			
1, **ANNUAL 1**		.35	.70
2–7		.25	.50
■ **WHAT IF?**			
1 **(Spider-Man FF)**	1.00	3.00	6.00
2 **(Hulk)**	.70	2.00	4.00
3–5	60	1.80	3.60
6	.45	1.25	2.50

Carol Danvers, former supporting character to CAPT. MARVEL, comes to work for **J. Jonah Jameson**, editing *Woman Magazine*. But this change in her life is accompanied by a bigger change — the Kree device known as the Psyche-Magnitron has duplicated **Mar-Vell's** powers and memories in Carol, creating a second identity she knows nothing about! When she does realize that during her blackouts she becomes **Ms. Marvel**, she erects an uneasy truce with her alternative identity, trying to maintain a life with her strange new second persona. Ms. Marvel, meanwhile, has her hands full, battling the **Scorpion**, the **Destructor**, the unstoppable robot known as the **Doomsday Man**, **Grotesk**, and **Modok**! The introduction of **Deathbird** and the return of the **Elementals** (from the old LIVING MUMMY series) were end-of-year highlights. And while Carol reeled from the apparent death of her astronaut-friend, **Salia Petrie**, she made new friendships with editor **Tracy Burke**, photographer **Frank Gianelli**, and psychologist **Mike Barnett**. Modok became Ms. Marvel's deadliest early foe, but in the years to come, her incredible saga would pit her against menaces she could never dare imagine! Writer **Chris Claremont** was instrumental in guiding Marvel's newest heroine toward her place in the sun.

While this new character was testing her wings, one of Marvel's oldest characters had just received his second book, a new magazine-sized publication entitled THE RAMPAGING HULK! With the popularity of the **Hulk's** TV show, demand for the green goliath was at a peak! The new series adopted an unusual strategy, however — it told tales from the Hulk's earliest days, in between the run of his first series and his later slot in TALES TO ASTONISH. Years afterward, these stories would be explained as parts of a movie compiled by the alien filmmaker **Bereet** — but they're exciting and memorable nonetheless, as ol' Jade-Jaws went up against the original **Avengers**, the young, still-training **X-Men**, and a **Sub-Mariner** still new to the surface world! **The Metal Master**, the alien wizard **Chen K'An**, and the goofy galactic conquerors known as the **Krylorians** also shared the stage, making these stories worth checking out. Back-up tales in THE RAMPAGING HULK featured **Ulysses Bloodstone**, the immortal monster-killer whose legend grew more mysterious with every chapter! Bloodstone battled **Killer Shrike** (in his debut), the behemoth **Goram**, **Iron Man**, the old **Nick Fury** foe **Centurius**, and the demon **Sharzan** . . . but amidst all the tumult, his ultimate secret remained as impenetrable as ever.

The other magazine-sized debut in 1977 was the much-heralded MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIAL, which lavished some of the finest-quality paper, printing, and coloring ever available to comics on specially chosen projects. Its first issue made Marvel super heroes out of the rock band KISS, as they jumped across dimensions, discovered uncanny mystic forces, and tried to outwit the ultimate villainy of **Dr. Doom**! Amidst lots of goofy media attention (the cover proclaimed the issue was "printed in real KISS blood"), the **Steve Gerber** script offered a good-sized helping of his special brand of lunacy. CONAN THE BARBARIAN starred in the second MARVEL COMICS SUPER SPECIAL, in a Roy Thomas/John Buscema spectacular, "Revenge of the Barbarian."

WHAT IF
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
50¢
WHAT IF SPIDER-MAN JOINED THE Fantastic Four?
ALL NEW! COVER TO COVER!
DR. DOOM HAS CONFIRMED HIS SUSPICIONS! THE OLD ONE IS DEAD!
FANTASTIC FIVE!
BEGINNING

The last new title to greet 1977's world was unlike any of the others, or even anything hitherto published by Marvel! Roy Thomas proudly brought forth WHAT IF?, which presented tales of alternate realities on a regular basis, every two months in double-sized format! Leading off, we found out what would have happened if **Spider-Man** had joined the **Fantastic Four**? The answer: **Sue**, upstaged by Spidey, would leave with **Reed's** rival for her affections, **Prince Namor**! What if the Hulk had always had **Bruce Banner's** brain? By an uncanny sequence of events, the **Thing** would become an uncontrollable, raging brute! What if the Avengers had never been? **Tony Stark**, to deal with the threats of Namor and the Hulk, would forge **Hank**, **Jan**, and **Rick Jones** into a team of Iron Men! What if the Invaders had stayed together after World War II? This fourth issue question was answered as historical holes were filled in regarding the careers of Cap, Namor, and the original **Human Torch**. What if Capt. America hadn't vanished during World War II? **Bucky** would ultimately be killed by HYDRA agent **Baron Zemo**, leaving **Steve Rogers** as the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D.! Finally, what if the FF had different powers? We saw Reed (**Big Brain**), Sue (**Ultra-Woman**), Johnny (**Mandroid**), and Ben (**Dragonfly**) defeat Dr. Doom using a radically different brand of teamwork! WHAT IF overcame the skeptics to become one of Marvel's most enjoyable titles, and a good spot to check in with the Watcher every two months!

Next month, we'll look at the titles that *ended* in 1977 — which include the books of some of Marvel's most famous characters! See ya then!

— Brian Nelson

LETTUCE FROM OUR READERS

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Ave South, New York, NY 10016

Credit for this month's vegetarian-type title goes to our pal, Mark Catroppa of Surrey, B.C., Canada. Thanks a lot, Mark! And as for the rest of you out there, remember: We need a brand new letter column title every single month. So strap on those designer thinking caps and send in your ideas! If we use one of them, we'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thank you." We know our generosity is hard to believe, but hey, that's just the kind of guys we are.

To whom this may concern,

I haven't been much of a reader of THE AVENGERS, but since Christmas passed, I have been interested in them. So I was wondering if you have some sort of special history of **the Avengers**. Also, I'm interested in THE INVADERS, so I was wondering if you had a history of it.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Jarret Kashiver

Sorry, Jarret, but we don't have a special history of those warriors of World War II, the Invaders, just yet. You should be able to find back issues of THE INVADERS at your local comics specialty shop, though. And while you're there, you might want to take a gander at the latest issue of THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS. Considering that the INDEX contains synopses of every issue of THE AVENGERS ever published, it's possible that you could conceivably find the series of some interest. (Who says we don't have a flair for soft sell?)

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I really enjoy Marvel, and I thought I'd wr — THIS IS A TEST OF THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM. THIS IS ONLY A TEST. EEEEEEEEEEE EEEEEEEEEEE EEEEEEEEEE EEEEEEEE EEEEEE EEEEEEE. THE BROADCASTERS IN YOUR AREA HAVE DESIGNED THIS TEST FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. HAD THIS BEEN AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY, YOU'D ALREADY BE DEAD. WE NOW RETURN YOU TO YOUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM.

Anyway, I though I would express my opinion. Keep up the good work.

Jeff "LW" Lacasse
1516 W. Cherry Ave.
Lompoc, CA 93436

Thanks for sharing your opinions with us, LW. You made some pretty good suggestions there! In fact, a few of them are pretty close to ideas we have in the works, so keep your eyes peeled over the next couple of months!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I have one very important question: When was the first appearance of **Dr. Doom**? THE OFFICIAL COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE has it listed as FANTASTIC FOUR #5 in 1962, yet it says "origin of Dr. Doom" under AMAZING ADVENTURES #1 in 1961. So . . . ?

Jeff Goodwin
57 Bloomfield Tr.
Richmond Hill, Ontario
Canada

Good question, Jeff. Actually, that's something that's made a lot of people scratch their heads over the years. (And here you thought it was just dandruff!)

The Dr. Doom you're thinking of did indeed make his debut in the now-classic FANTASTIC FOUR #5. So who's this guy in AMAZING ADVENTURES, you ask? Well, he's not really Dr. Doom at all — he's a mystic-type super hero named Dr. Droom. And here's an inside scoop for you: Ol' Droom is still running

around today! He just changed his name to Dr. Druid before he joined the Avengers. Now, if we could just get him to change his *socks*, too . . .

Well, we see by the clock on the wall that it's time once again for our LETTER OF THE MONTH! Every month, we pick a letter (or if we're feeling especially benevolent, two) that we think will be of special interest to this and future generations. Then we print it right here against a ginchy yellow background.

This month, our Letter of the Month takes a more serious tone than usual as we learn how Marvel Comics have touched the life of at least one of our many friends out there.

To all at Marvel Comics,

I love comic books. I truly love them. ever since I was a kid, I would go to the 7-11 and buy titles such as THE AVENGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, and THE HULK. I'm a teenager now. I spend a good twenty to twenty-five dollars a week on comics. And as I've grown into a young adult, I have found them to be a part of my life, like a friend you grow up with. Comic books are happy, depressing, they make you laugh, and they make you cry.

I'm eighteen this month. This year has been a trying one for me. I have had many hardships that I have had to deal with: my girlfriend moving away, my job, and all that. At one point, I just couldn't take it anymore and I felt like dying. I wondered what life would be like without me. I wondered what my family and friends would think and feel if I died. I thought everyone was against me. My girlfriend, **Cassy**, had introduced me to her church and I found Christ. But she was gone, and my parents couldn't understand why I didn't want to follow their religion anymore. There was pressure from all sides and I wanted out. I wanted to die.

But through it all, I had friends. Even though they were printed on pages, they were still my friends. The Avengers, the **X-Men**, all of them. And as I read more and more, I found that life wasn't so bad. The characters have touched the innermost reaches of my soul like nothing else could before. I could relate to **Ben Grimm's** problems with **Johnny's** marriage to **Alicia**, to the problems that mutants like **X-Factor** and the **X-Men** faced every day in the outside world. I shared their grief, anger, and sadness, and in a way, they shared mine. At some points, it seemed like the only friends I had were in comic books. But you know what? It wasn't too bad.

I'm very happy to say that I have made a substantial recovery from that suicidal point in my life. I still have some of the hardships and heavy burdens to carry, but now I think I can handle them. Your stories and characters really made a difference in my life. I love all of them and I thank you all for your creations and the help you have given me.

I love comic books. They are a part of my life. Thanks for all of the past memories, but thanks most of all for giving me friendship.

Chris Purdy

And thank *you* for writing in and sharing your experiences with us, Chris. Every once in a while, we get a letter from someone like you, telling how our comic books have helped him or her through some rough period, and that's the sort of thing that really makes us feel like we're doing something worthwhile. Now that things are looking up for you, we hope you'll continue to write and keep us posted on how things are going.

Dear Marvelites,

Why does that little MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE super hero (the one in the red suit that you always put on the front and back covers) have a yellow "F" on his suit? I hope it's not obscene.

Simon E.
Canada

Obscene, Simon? Who, us?

Never fear. The "F" on our fearless mascot's uniform stands for his name — Forbush-Man!

The Way-Out Wonder is secretly none other than Honest Irving Forbush, the guy we keep around to blame when things go wrong — uh, we mean to handle those special circumstances that only Irv is qualified for. Irv adopted his costumed alias back in the days of Marvel's humor series, NOT BRAND ECCH. And if you're wondering why we put him on our cover every issue, well, wouldn't you let a guy who's beaten both the Juggernaut and the Stranger single-handed appear on your cover if he wanted to?

Besides, he works cheap.

And that about wraps it up for yet another lilting letter column. Before we go, though, we want to repeat something we haven't said for a while: There aren't enough hours in the day (or even the week) for us to reply personally to every letter we get, let alone print them all here. But we really do read and appreciate each and every one! So keep 'em coming! After all, you know how insecure we get when we don't hear from you!

ANSWERS TO MARVEL® QUIZ TRIVIA

1. C	5. C	9. A	13. A	17. A
2. B	6. D	10. B	14. C	18. C
3. A	7. A	11. C	15. B	19. A
4. C	8. B	12. A	16. A	20. B

And now, let's meet some more MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS! Here's a brand new batch of personable people who are looking for new friends around the world. So if you've got a minute, a pencil, and a stamp, why not drop one or two of

them a line? It's more fun than taking over a small country . . . and probably more legal.

Also, if you'd like to be listed in this space yourself, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel series to Marvel Correspondents, c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE at the address atop this letter column. But after you send in your info, please be patient; we've already got about a year's worth of pen pals waiting to appear in this space! Guess there are a lot of folks out there who know a good thing when they see it, huh?

John Rai
7222 18th Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
V3N 1H3 CANADA
Age: 15
Favorites: X-FACTOR, TRANSFORMERS, X-MEN

Jenny Summers
303 Front St.
Belding, MI 48809
Age: 15
Favorites: POWER PACK, ELFQUEST, TRANSFORMERS

Michael Dodge
11226 SE 216th Pl.
Kent, WA 98031
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, PUNISHER

Khari Hales
8881 Pierson
Detroit, MI 48228
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, ALPHA FLIGHT

Billy Walter
173 E. Kingman
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Age: 11
Favorites: WEST COAST AVENGERS, AVENGERS, G.I. JOE

William "Wild Will" Meyer
Rt. 1 Box 162
Bondvel, WI 54107
Age: 15
Favorites: GROO, ELFQUEST, NEW MUTANTS

Pino Enea
10745 Waverly
Montreal, Quebec
H3L 2W7 CANADA
Age: 18
Favorites: ALPHA FLIGHT, X-MEN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Scott Wilkinson
8 High Carnegie Rd.
Port Glasgow
Inverclyde PA14 6BX
SCOTLAND
Age: 17
Favorites: GROO, BLOOD, MARSHAL LAW

Emily A. Claiwan
Felipe Abrigo Memorial School of Arts and Trades
Guiuan, Eastern Samar
PHILIPPINES 7006
Age: 16
Favorites: INDIANA JONES

Alex Ruchelman
3725 Redding Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06430
Age: 14
Favorites: X-MEN, POWER PACK, ALPHA FLIGHT

Continued from inside front cover.

Now it's time for this year's model . . .

1988 MARVEL AGE SUMMER ANNUALS REPORT CARD	OUTSTANDING	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	AWFUL
X-FACTOR ANNUAL #3					
PUNISHER ANNUAL #1					
SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #1					
THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #4					
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #22					
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #21					
X-MEN ANNUAL #12					
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4					
WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #3					
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8					
AVENGERS ANNUAL #17					

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Send to: 1988 MARVEL AGE SUMMER ANNUAL REPORT CARD, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016.

Just fill out the above Report Card after you've savored each annual and let us know if we made the grade or not. Go on! We can take it.

Before I take my leave, I don't want anyone to think I can go through a whole column without mentioning Marvel Zombies at least once. So there. See you next month.

—Jim Salicrup

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET THEM ALL, BUT IF YOU MISS OUT ON ONE, YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON A PIECE OF THE ACTION IN THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY STORY OF THE YEAR!!

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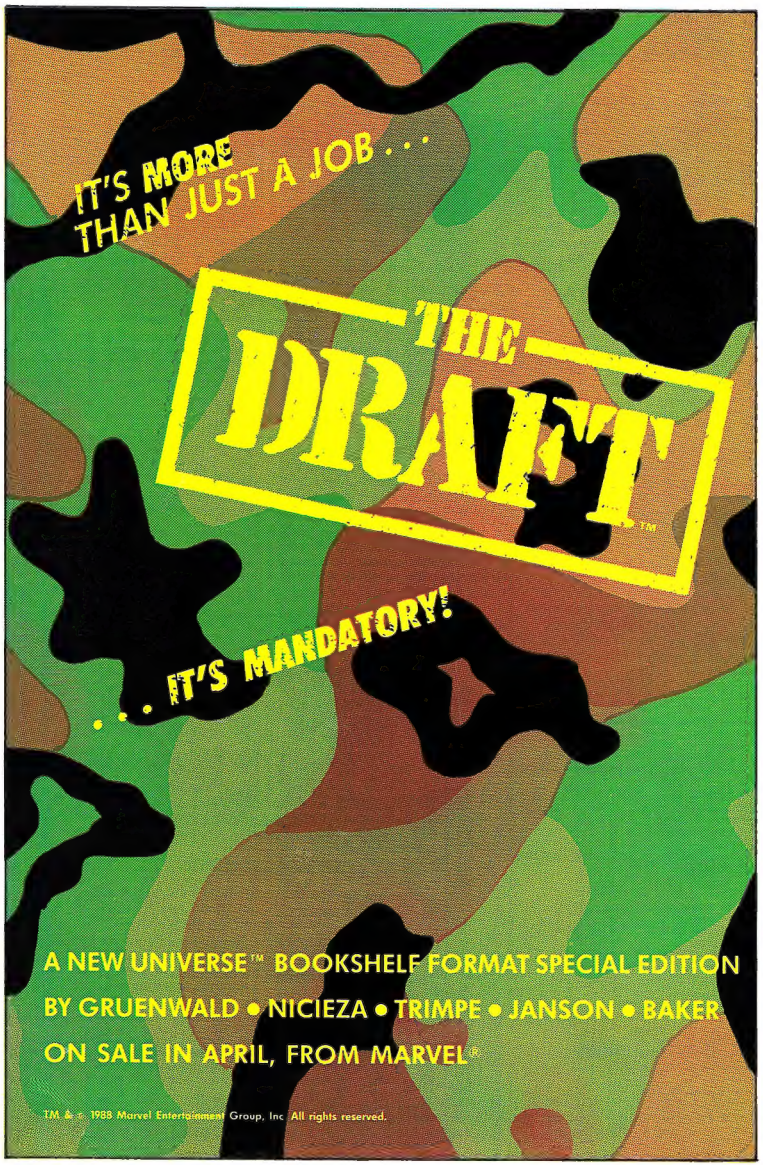
Be sure to ask for your *free* Evolutionary War card (pictured above) at wherever you pick up MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE!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